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# ***JPRS Report***

## **East Asia**

### ***Southeast Asia***

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# East Asia Southeast Asia

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### Report on Border Area Development

91SE0089A Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 26 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Yangon, 25 Dec—The Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races in Shan State held a coordination meeting at the Eastern Command Headquarters at 1 pm on 24 December.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Work Committee Commander Maj-Gen Maung Aye, Deputy Commander Col Soe Tint and Work Committee members.

Speaking at the meeting, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Aye pointed out that the border region development activities are being carried out in Shan, Kachin and Rakhine States. These activities, he said, are being carried out through formation of committees from state-level to township level. These committees of various levels comprise representatives from various enterprises and departments, he said. Measures on communications, health, education and agriculture are being taken so as to ensure all-round development especially in the underdeveloped areas, he added. He called for efforts by the departmental organizations for ensuring all-round development in border areas.

He also urged them to try hard to the best of their ability so as to achieve the activities.

Then, the departmental personnel reported on the work being carried out for regional development. The coordination meeting came to an end at 3 pm with concluding remarks by the Commander. MNA

### Officials Discuss Paddy Distribution, Storage

91SE0092A Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 29 Dec 90 pp 12, 7

[Text] Yangon, 28 Dec.—A meeting to discuss paddy purchase, storage, milling and distribution work and measures for ensuring smooth, speedy and regular flow of commodities was held in the conference hall of the Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading at noon today and Secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] Maj-Gen Tin Oo delivered an address.

The meeting was attended by Patron of the Supervision Committee for ensuring smooth, and regular flow of commodities and for bringing down the prices of commodities Maj-Gen Myo Nyunt, Minister for Planning & Finance and for Trade Brig-Gen Abel, Chairman of the Supervision Committee for ensuring smooth and regular flow of commodities and for bringing down the prices of commodities Commander of No 502 Air Force Base Brig-Gen Maung Maung and Committee members, City Mayor U Ko Lay, responsible personnel from the SLORC Office and the Government Office, the Deputy Commanders of the Military Commands, representatives of the States and Divisions, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the Departments and Enterprises and invited personnel.

Speaking at the meeting, SLORC Secretary-2 Maj-Gen Tin Oo pointed out that the Trade, Cooperatives and Joint Venture had achieved success in paddy purchase, storage and distribution work last year because this work was carried out systematically. On the basis of this achievement, work must be done this year again, he said. The representatives, he said, needed to submit the real situation so that the momentum of success would not be lessened.

He went on to say that though prices of rice are stable, the prices of other commodities are still rising. In reviewing the causes leading to high prices of commodities, it was found that the practice of economic system changing from the socialist economic system to market economy is not stable yet; the private merchants are paying more attention only to their profit rather than long-term interests by sending commodities abroad through illegal means and some regional authorities are taking measures for their regional sufficiency and these are the obstacles in the efforts for bringing down the prices of commodities, he added.

He also pointed out that the illegal export of commodities through border areas has affected both the State and traders. Therefore, steps must be taken to block the smugglers' ways through all possible means, he said. At the same time, measures must be taken to prevent the hullers and rice mills which are not allowed to be registered for lack of quality, from being operated since they may cause instability in rice prices, he said. He further stated that there is a need to have harmony in production, taxation and pricing for long-term period when efforts are made for bringing down and stabilizing the prices of commodities. He called for concerted efforts for ensuring smooth and regular flow of commodities and bringing down the prices of commodities.

Patron of the Supervision Committee for Bringing Down Commodity Prices and Ensuring Smooth Flow of Commodities Yangon Command Headquarters Commander Maj-Gen Myo Nyunt delivered an address. He said, regular and smooth flow of commodities is vital for bringing down prices. The prospects for paddy output this year are good. It is necessary to take measures for controlling hullers and for preventing illegal export of rice and other commodities is to be boosted under the motto "Grow everything that is edible and raise everything that can be consumed."

Minister Brig-Gen Abel and Brig-Gen Maung Maung explained measures to be taken for ensuring the smooth flow of commodities, for purchasing paddy and for bringing down and maintaining commodity prices."

The Deputy Commanders from Commands and representatives from States and Divisions discussed measures taken for ensuring the smooth flow of commodities and the difficulties being faced. The heads of department

took part in the discussions. The Secretary-2 and the Minister gave appropriate instructions.

Minister Brig-Gen Abel discussed the financial situation of the country, collection of taxes and revenues and trade policy.

The Secretary-2 delivered the closing address. He said, "Taxes and revenues being collected by the Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department and Yangon City

Development Committee for the well-being of the people are to be reassessed. The tax collection system shall contribute towards economic growth of the country as well as development in trade and industrial sectors.

"Measures are to be taken for boosting production. Increase in production will be conducive to bringing down commodity prices. Earnest efforts are to be made for the purchase of paddy and for ensuring smooth flow of commodities."—MNA

### **Resistance Groups, Business Developments Viewed**

91SE0072A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai  
17-23 Dec 90 p 44

[Unattributed report: "Rightist Lao Change Strategy, Attacking Through Investments"]

[Text] The LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] conducts trade mostly with Thai companies. There are now 600 companies which conduct trade with Laos. Recently Lao officials were startled to discover something unusual, namely the suspicion that among the 600 companies conducting trade with Laos there might also be "Rightist Lao companies" which were making investments using the names of Thai businessmen.

### **Disarming the Rightist Lao Forces**

Although it appears to the Thai side that the Rightist Lao movement operating along the Mekong River or deep inside the Lao border is comprised of "rascals", nevertheless the Lao side is still frightened of them. Just as Thai government officials fear the Communists, Lao officials will fear the Rightists as long as the views of the Lao people do not change completely from monarchist to socialist. In addition the need for Laos to make its economy more capitalistic has changed the feelings of the people about the amount of change needed and about the demands of the avant-garde Lao in the ministries and government bureaucracies.

There are two main Rightist Lao groups. One group operating on the border and led by a group of Rightist officers such as Bounleut Xaycocie is steadily declining and has almost no forces left. The other group is that of General Vang Pao, the beloved leader of the Hmong. It is thought to be located in the mountains of Oudomxai. The Lao government believes that this group has fairly good capabilities for espionage and causing disturbances. In addition it still receives a moderate amount of financial support from Montana in the United States from Lao people rich with U.S. and Australian dollars.

The Lao government has tried hard to pressure the Thai side to accept the measures the Lao side needs to completely suppress the Lao Rightists. The latest Lao proposal is that all Lao be disarmed and put in refugee camps, that the camps be moved far from Laos or that the refugees be returned to Laos. Laos is very suspicious that armed persons are crossing the border into Laos and

then returning to sit around in the camps with nothing being done about it. The Thai side has not made a clear response to this except for the recent statement made in Laos by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, the Supreme Commander of Thai Armed Forces. He just said that the Rightist groups operating in the border area should be suppressed for the sake of friendly relations between the two countries. However at the operational level the difficulty of carrying out these Lao intentions would be great. The border and weapons are difficult to police. Thai officials would prefer that Laos find a way to "solve its domestic problem" inasmuch as Thailand never requested that Laos disarm the Thai who crossed over into Laos (the Green Star movement).

### **Rightist Lao Companies**

While suppression of armed persons in the border area is not yet complete, Lao officials have become increasingly concerned as they have received information that trading companies set up in Vientiane which carry the names of Thai businessmen might be receiving financial support from Lao refugees in Australia, Canada, France and America who are thus investing in Laos and are beginning to attack with "invisible bullets". This would include both starting service businesses which contradict the pricing theory of socialism and also information gathering, setting up intelligence networks, espionage and communication with the armed bases of the Rightist Lao both in the North and in the area around Vientiane.

What caused the Lao government to increase its interest in these activities was the change in the economic system in Laos which has been responsible in large part for causing the rise of the new consciousness in Lao society. This new consciousness may cause a shift from the old socialist course. The Lao side would like to make the change gradually and would like there to be a balance between developing the economy and dealing with the political and social problems so that they proceed together. It is odd that the business and investment that Laos wants is in short supply while the business which Laos still feels is not appropriate is pouring into the country. The Lao government wants business to invest in large scale agriculture and animal husbandry, but what it is getting is primarily investment in commerce and services.

In Vietnam economic reform on a grand scale has caused Vietnamese refugees to return home as heroes with dollars, but these developments seem strange to a "staid" society such as Laos, and it is hesitating.

**Approval of Base Use Against Iraq Criticized***91SE0075D Manila DYARYO PILIPINO in Tagalog  
27 Dec 90 p 1*

[Article by Ernesto Reyes, DYARYO Correspondent]

[Text] Yesterday, Senator Wigberto Tanada accused President Aquino of approving of the use of American bases against Iraq.

He reminded Mrs. Aquino of her clear-cut duties and responsibilities for the nation's own interest.

According to Tanada, the commander-in-chief must obey two guiding principles in the Constitution. These are the repudiation of war as an instrument of national policy and the policy of the freedom not to use nuclear weapons.

Tanada is the leading opponent of the continuous presence of the U.S. military bases in the country.

This lawmaker (i.e. Tanada) said that the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty cannot be used as the pretext for the U.S. military operations against Iraq or any other nation.

He emphasized that the government must not be persuaded by the foreign interests of the U.S., regardless of how highly important they may be, lest the entire Filipino populace be sacrificed and placed in a dangerous situation.

"Our national interest has its roots in concrete historical necessities that are imperative for our very own survival and for our progress as a nation," said Tanada. "It (i.e. our own national interest) cannot be sacrificed on the altar of foreign interests that can only diminish it even if they are related to ours."

He added: "A foreign policy that engages our participation in a war that we should not meddle in is characteristic of bowing to pressure that can infuriate the people."

**Seniority No Longer Basis for Armed Forces Promotions***91SE0087A Manila MANILA CHRONICLE in English  
23 Dec 90 pp 1, 4*

[Article by Manny Mogato and Mary Rose Feliciano]

[Text] It looks like seniority is on the way out as a principal criterion for promotions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP].

To outgoing AFP chief of staff Gen. Renato S. de Villa that is the meaning of President Aquino's choices in the new leadership posts in the military.

De Villa said that the three-month term given to Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon was proof of the President's resolve not to extend the retirement age of future chiefs of staff.

De Villa explained that the appointment of Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as the new army chief, instead of other generals more senior than him, showed that the President was "abandoning the escalator system" of promotions that was prevalent during the old regime and in the President's early years as commander in chief.

De Villa noted that for too long the military had been bogged down with seniority as the principal—and often deciding—factor that sends military officials to the prime posts in the AFP ladder.

"I think that we are developing—and this policy will continue," de Villa said.

As this developed, Aguinaldo sources said yesterday that Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile, the PMA [Philippine Military Academy] superintendent who lost the top army post to Abadia, is being considered as the new Southern Command chief in Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, commander of the army's 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal, is being considered as chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command, a concurrent post for Biazon. Another one in the race is Brig. Gen. Emiliano Templo, the AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operation.

At Malacanang, President Aquino said the three-month stint of Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon as armed forces chief of staff is of "critical importance" to her administration which is in the midst of threats from extremists.

She also indicated that Biazon's three-month term chief would not be extended as otherwise perceived by defense and political officials.

"This three-month period of his service as AFP chief of staff is involving a stage of transition, and therefore one of critical importance," Mrs Aquino said in a press statement.

Biazon was appointed as head of the military, together with army chief Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores as vice chief of staff, during the 55th anniversary of the AFP.

Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia was named as the new army chief, along with the promotion of 29 other officers.

"After Gen. Renato de Villa retires on Jan. 23, 1991, I shall nominate Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon as AFP chief of staff and that his tour of duty will be up to April of 1991 when he reaches the retirement age of 56," the President said.

She said her choice was based on the loyalty displayed by Biazon especially during the bloody December 1989 coup attempt. Biazon is seen by political observers as the person who could unify the fragmented military.

"His choice took into account his overall performance and qualifications. The role he played in the events during the December 1989 coup attempt formed part of

his overall assessment but this does not solely account for the decision to choose him," Mrs. Aquino said.

Officials are still wondering whether Biazon would be replaced immediately after his retirement or if Mrs. Aquino would extend his service in the military. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos described Biazon's appointment as "open-ended" since Mrs. Aquino's announcement was "vague."

Malacanang officials earlier said that after Biazon's three month stint, the six-foot general would be replaced by one of the three top contenders: Flores, Abadia and Philippine Military Academy Superintendent Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile.

#### **NPA Raided Police Station Near Cebu City**

91SE0087B Cebu City SUN STAR in English  
14 Dec 90 p 1

[Article by Thea C. Rinen]

[Excerpt] About 30 fatigue-clad armed persons, believed to be New People's Army (NPA) members, overran the municipal police station in Sogod, 60.5 kms. north of Cebu city at past 5 p.m. yesterday.

The raiders, who included women, came aboard two commandeered passenger jeepneys.

They briefly took hostage the police station chief, another policeman, and close to a hundred jeepney passengers.

The policemen did not resist as the armed group carted away three M-16s, one M-14, a garand, a cal. 45 revolver and three cal. 38 revolvers during the 15-minute raid, said municipal police station chief Sgt. Salustiano Comainging.

Reinforcements from the government side arrived about two hours after. The first to respond were members of the police station in Catmon, a neighboring town. They arrived at about 7:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports received by soldiers manning checkpoints in the neighboring towns said the armed group also set fire to the hacienda of Danao City Mayor Don Durano in the hinterland barangay of Kabalawan, Sogod.

Durano and PC Cebu Provincial Commander Lt. Col. Enrique Cuadra, in separate vehicles, were seen heading for the municipal hall at about 10 o'clock last night.

Yesterday's raid was the second to hit a Cebu municipal PC/INP [Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police] station in eight months. The Compostela municipal hall, municipal police station and the nearby rural bank in Compostela were also overrun in April this year. [passage omitted]

#### **Military Claims Victory in Some Negros Areas**

91SE0090A Cebu City SUN STAR in English  
22 Dec 90 p D-7

[Text] The Mabinay-based Philippine Army Seventh Infantry Battalion claimed victory in six barangays allegedly influenced by the communist underground movement for several years as it claimed having liberated the areas from CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] control.

Major Marcos Ybanez, civil-liaison officer of the 8th IB, PA [Philippine Army] reported the army freed five barangays in Mabinay, and one in Manjuyod from communist "shadow" government.

In military parlance, an influenced barangay is under the control of the insurgents in terms of social, political and economic structures.

Ybanez said the barangays were neutralized after the military conducted special operations dubbed "Banat" by the Charlie Company of the 66th IB headed by 1 Lt. John Jurado.

The neutralized barangays were identified as Inapoy, New Namangca, Manlingay, Old Namangca, Luyang all in Mabinay, and Cayutisan in Manjuyod, south of the province.

In his report to the command, Lt. Jurado described Barangay Inapoy as one of the most heavily-influenced barangays and potent strongholds of communist terrorists. (O-Lemence)

#### **AFP Affected by Decrease in Gasoline Supply**

91SE0075B Manila DYARYO PILIPINO in Tagalog  
17 Dec 90 p 8

[Text] Major General Guillermo Flores, Philippine Army (PA) chief, declared that military operations were being greatly affected by the decreased gasoline allocation.

Flores stated that military operations against communist rebels' movements in the hillsides were the ones most affected.

According to him, the PA field unit is suffering (badly) because of the small oil (gasoline) rations issued to the vehicles that take the troops to faraway places.

In this regard, Flores said that he has already ordered a decrease in the use of oil (gasoline) for police vehicles which are going after parking violations in order to increase the oil (gasoline) allocation for outside operations.

Flores also fears that the New People's Army movement will become much stronger if the national crisis due to Middle East tensions continues.



It has been observed that five liters of oil (gasoline) allocated to each vehicle is insufficient. It is not adequate for 24-hour use.

According to this official, there are many vehicles, like the helicopters, that are no longer being used because of the lack of crude oil and gasoline.

Flores added that the government men assigned to surveillance of the enemy and to the national security force are also affected by the lack of oil (gasoline).

However, Flores gave assurances that the military operations against the NPA would be victorious.

### Columnist Reports on Osmena's Presidential Ambitions

91SE0090B Cebu City SUN STAR in English  
23 Dec 90 p 7

[Article by Cerge M. Remonde: "Governor Osmena Is Becoming a Strong Contender for Presidential Race"]

[Excerpt] I was in Manila for the most part of this week for very important business and that is the reason why I was not able to write my columns. I would like to apologize to you and to our beloved editor for that.

I have it from Malacanang sources that our very own Gov. Lito Osmena is in serious contention for president Cory's nod as administration standard bearer in the 1992 presidential elections. President Cory told our source that Secretary Ramos has remained her favorite. However, she mentioned that Lito O has been strongly endorsed by people close to her.

Our source said it is Bea Zobei who is strongly lobbying for the presidential nomination of Lito O. Bea is one of the most influential persons in the Aquino administration. While out of government, Bea is reputed to have Cory's ears and that she has greatly influenced presidential decisions.

This information jibed perfectly with reports available in open media. One, that the local government executives led by the governors are forming their own party. Two, that Lito openly supported the recent gas price hike. Three, that Lito O is appearing together with President Aquino on nationwide television today.

Authoritative political observers say that Lito O must be elevated to the Cabinet to give him national exposure if Cory wants him to succeed her. That is exactly what may be in the presidential mind. There were earlier reports that Lito O has been offered a Cabinet post.

I am one of those who thought that the presidential nomination of Lito O is a long shot. Now, I have changed my mind. My impression is that Lito O has metamorphosed into becoming one of the frontrunners in the race for presidential nomination among the administration contenders. [passage omitted]

### Early Election Proposal

91SE0075A Manila DYARYO PILIPINO in Tagalog  
11 Dec 90 pp 1, 7

[Article by Ernesto Reyes, DYARYO Correspondent]

[Text] Yesterday, Senator John Osmena called for an early presidential election in May 1991, instead of in May 1992, because of the frustrations of the general public over the Aquino administration.

"Merely reshuffling the cabinet (members) and other patchwork remedies are not solutions to problems. The government administration must be changed," according to Osmena in a weekly "coffee hour in Manila."

Some political observers in the nation stated that the current electoral crisis is the worst in Aquino's almost five years in office.

According to these observers, her administration does not have the competence to govern the country progressively.

Last Sunday, Mrs. Aquino stated that she would dismiss from office all the "do-nothing" cabinet members, and that she would call a special session of Congress to discuss the economic conditions of the country.

On the other hand, Osmena stated that the cabinet reshuffling would not be sufficient to solve the problems. He focused his solution on an early election because "the people are now desperate."

In the Senate, the members are divided over Osmena's proposal for an early presidential election.

Siding with Osmena's proposal are Majority Floor-Leader Teofisto Guingona, Minority Floor-Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, Senators Ernesto Maceda, Alberto Romulo, Edgardo Angara and Orlando Mercado.

In opposition are Senate President Jovito Salonga, Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Ernesto Herrera, Vicente Paterno, Santanina Rasul, Neptali Gonzales, Heherson Alvarez, Wigberto Tanada, Sotero Laurel, and Victor Ziga.

Senator Salonga stated that the constitution must be amended, if an early election were to take place. According to him, if this were to happen, then it would follow that some constitutional provisions would also have to be changed, just as in the case of the prohibition of the storage of nuclear weapons in any territory of the country.

Furthermore, according to those opposed to the proposal, the costs of an early election would be astronomical, and the constitutional changes would take a longer time than anticipated.

On the other hand, according to Maceda, "The early election will cost a lot, but the inept administration of the current government would cost even more."

#### **Criticism on Return of Cojuangco's Family**

*91SE0075C Manila DYARYO PILIPINO in Tagalog  
27 Dec 90 p 3*

[Text] The Christmas of the former ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco was a happy one. The plan for his family to return to the Philippines succeeded. Although the court allowed the passports of Danding's family to be legally stamped, it was crystal-clear that, without the blessings of the Palace, their return to the Philippines would have been impossible.

If President Aquino had to bestow a Christmas blessing, first on the list should have been the former First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Marcos.

In her message to the Filipinos, Mrs. Marcos stated that if she were allowed to return to the Philippines, Christmas wouldn't be just one day.

"I hope that someday, the government of the Republic of the Philippines would grant me the freedom to be

generous, and to love my fellow men," Imelda said in her Christmas message. The former First Lady also stated clearly that if she were allowed to go home, Christmas would be every day, and that every day would be a day of giving and loving.

It is very clear from her message that Mrs. Marcos is indeed very sad in exile. Besides the many charges brought against her by the Aquino government, she finds it most painful to hear that the tombs of the Romualdezes in Olot, Leyte, have been desecrated. The unknown men who dug into the sacred graves of the Romualdezes had been looking for wealth.

If Danding had been permitted by the government to come back, why not allow the same to Imelda? It will also be a big advantage if the PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government] sues the former First Lady in court. It won't be necessary for the government to spend millions of dollars in order to recover the wealth that the Marcoses are accused of stealing.

Regarding security, there is no reason to fear that Mrs. Marcos is a threat. And this can be confirmed by the statement of the military that the rebel soldiers have no capability of seizing power from the government.

**UK Anti-Tank Weapon May Replace U.S. Model***91WC0048E Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 24 Dec 90-6 Jan 91 pp 10, 11*

[Text] The M-72 anti-tank weapon, which is the type that was once fired at General Prem, now needs to be replaced. The important question is: With what weapon should this important infantry weapon be replaced? Recently, at the infantry center at the Thanarat Camp in Pranburi, there was a demonstration of the Law-80 weapon made by the British Handing Company. It seems likely that the Law-80 will be chosen to replace the U.S.-made M-72 weapon. As for the Law-80, about 4 years ago, M.C. Wan reported that it seemed very likely that the army would switch from the M-72 to the Law-80, because of all the hand-held anti-tank weapons available, the British weapon has been well received. Even the U.S. Army has purchased this weapon. This weapon is better than its competitors in a variety of ways. The one problem is that Thai soldiers are small physically. The weapons that are built for Western soldiers are a little too heavy for our soldiers. It would be good if they weighed the same as the "Dragon."

**Further Report on PRC-Made Frigates***91WC0048A Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 7-13 Jan 91 p 11*

[Text] LAK THAI has frequently reported on the actions taken to develop the navy, particularly the purchase of Chinese-made frigates. Thailand has already ordered four frigates, and the first ship will be commissioned in February 1991. The rest will be delivered by the end of 1992. Two more ships will definitely be purchased. These are Jainghu 25-T type ships.

Thailand will have six Chinese-made warships. Construction on the fifth and sixth ships will get underway in 1993. The two types of warships, that is, the first four ships and the second two ships, are clearly different from each other. The first four ships are equipped with a Chinese-made weapons system consisting of two 100-mm gun turrets, with two guns per turret, four 37-mm/63 AAA guns, two RBU 1200-5 anti-submarine missile launchers, two depth charge tubes, a decoy launching mount, and a sonar system.

The first four Chinese frigates will be equipped with Chinese-made surface-to-surface guided missiles. These will be the first Chinese-made guided missiles used aboard Thai warships. A news source said that from the standpoint of cost and efficiency, we made the right decision in choosing this missile system, because China has greatly developed its technology in this field. When we first ordered these ships, we had not reached an agreement on the weapons system. Originally, we intended to arm the ships with a European or American weapons system. But during the past several years, China's weapons technology has made great strides. China has cooperated with or purchased the right to build guided missiles from Western countries. One type of missile is the C-801, which the navy considers to be a type of Exocet

missile, a well-known French weapon. China has used the technology of the French-made Exocet missile to develop its own surface-to-surface missile.

The navy has agreed to have China equip the first four frigates with C-801 missiles. The contract has already been signed. This guided missile for attacking surface ships has four launching tubes. This is a radar-guided missile that has a counter-interference system. It has an effective range of 40 km. It can also be used with land-based launchers aboard mobile missile vehicles for striking ships at sea.

The picture above shows a C-801 missile leaving the launcher aboard a Chinese submarine.

The first four Thai frigates purchased from China have already been assigned numbers. The first has been given the number 456, with the others numbered 457, 458, and 459 respectively.

**Ex-Minister Thanat Comments on Civil Air Dispute***91SE0069A Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 90 p B3*

[Letters to the editor]

[Text] What Is Fair?

Those who want to know about what Americans mean by "fairness" should read the story in THE NATION of Nov 3 about the air traffic agreement talks between Thailand and the U.S.

There, we learn that what Americans understand by "fair" is that they should get at least 30 flights and seven cargo flights into Thailand a week while the latter, on its part, would get only seven flights weekly for going into the U.S.

This has been the demand imperiously flung to the poor Thai negotiator, Mahidol Chantarangkul, who, despite severe threats, refused to be cowed.

For that, the Thai side was contemptuously compared to "the little mouse taking on a lion." What kind of a lion, we wonder? Is it a desert lion which sends some 400,000 of its cubs to enjoy free board and lodging in the Middle East, making them perfect "Hessians" (alias super mercenaries).

As usual, with an expert consultant like Ms Rosalind Ellingworth following in the footsteps of Amazon warrior Carla Hills who once promised the U.S. Congress to use a crowbar to pry open the skulls of recalcitrant interlocutors, the U.S. is making, with the support of the special negotiator, James Tarrant, and in the true spirit of international economic hooliganism, the hardly veiled menace that, if Thailand does not relent, it may face some harrowing harassment measures like the Super 301 of the infamous Omnibus Trade Act.

Dr Thanat Khoman

### Sources View General Wanchai in Political Context

91SE0073A Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 17-23 Dec 90  
pp 21, 22

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, or Big Huk [owl] (the nickname given to General Wanchai by CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 1 classmates because his eyes are large and round like those of an owl—he also has another nickname, Ruat, which is not derived from the word “charuat” [rocket] but from the word “tamruat” [police] because he is the son of a senior police officer), has not stayed out of the various conflicts. When the conflicts arose, he had to get involved, too.

When the military clashed with the politicians over the issue of Police Captain Chaloe Yubamrung, General Wanchai could not stay out of the conflict. One of our news sources said that General Wanchai was not in a position to get into an argument with politicians, because he is the undersecretary of defense, a position that calls for him to serve the minister of defense, who is a politician. One person close to General Wanchai said that whoever holds this position cannot avoid becoming involved in political matters, because he is very close to politics. He is a political shield or a middleman between the politicians and the military. This position is the separation point between political administration and military command. The under secretary of defense is the one who gives the policies to Supreme Command. And Supreme Command is the foundation of military command.

Our news source said that the conflict between the politicians and military put General Wanchai in a very difficult position. Because he couldn't sidestep this conflict, he had to confront the military. That is, after getting out of one spot, he then found himself in the position of having to deal with the military, and there was confusion about this.

“He didn't have to argue with the politicians but found himself in conflict with the military,” said a news source at the Ministry of Defense.

Our news source said that General Wanchai became undersecretary of defense at a very appropriate time. Because if General Wanchai had not been the undersecretary of defense at that critical point in time, the situation might have become even more serious. This is because among today's senior military leaders, no one is as close to General Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister and minister of defense, as General Wanchai. Both are former cavalry officers and both served in the same unit. Also, Major General Manun Rupkhachon, who is close to General Chatchai, has great respect for General Wanchai, because both are cavalry officers.

General Wanchai served as a staff officer for so long that people have forgotten that he was in the cavalry, which is

a combat branch. Even though he seems to be a mild-mannered officer who speaks well, General Wanchai is a cavalryman who can act decisively.

During the period that the politicians and military began to move away from each other, General Wanchai Ruangtrakun was the person who had to keep the two groups from getting into a fight and prevent them from moving so far apart that the political system and command structure of the military, which are intertwined, would have suffered. [passage omitted]

Our news source said that General Wanchai believes that whatever will happen will happen. But there must not be a conflict within the defense system.

General Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister and minister of defense, has apparently tried to forge better ties with the military. But he has not had much success. The military has turned away from him and won't return. Thus, General Chatchai has had to look for a soldier who can be viewed as being close to politicians and who will not create the image that the military has no use for them. He has tried to show that the command system of the minister of defense is still strong. (But people close to him have leaked rumors that various people will be dismissed, which will not increase but weaken his command power.) General Chatchai needs General Wanchai, the undersecretary, close to him. Supreme Command has sought out General Phichit Kunlawanit, the second deputy supreme commander. Thus, there is the view that General Wanchai and General Phichit are ‘powers behind the throne’ and that they may be appointed to new positions if General Chatchai makes changes in military commands. There are rumors that General Wanchai will be appointed supreme commander and that General Phichit will be appointed RTA CINC.

In talking with LAK THAI, General Wanchai denied this rumor, saying that “I am happy in my position as undersecretary. Very happy.” [passage omitted]

Our news source said that General Wanchai and General Chatchai get along with each other quite well. The news source said that General Wanchai asked that the position of deputy undersecretary be made a field marshal's slot, and General Chatchai agreed. Thus, the position of deputy undersecretary is a field marshal's slot, just like that of the deputy supreme commander. Also, the position of chief aide-de-camp to the king is now a field marshal's slot, and several General's slots have been opened up in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense. General Wanchai has satisfied the wishes of General Chatchai with respect to certain positions, such as staff positions to General Chatchai. In particular, one such position was given to Major General Manun Rupkhachon. [passage omitted]

If General Athit Kamlang-ek is appointed minister of defense in the second Chatchai administration, our news source said that General Wanchai will still be in a good position. General Athit won't touch him, because General Athit and General Wanchai have been close for a long time. General Athit has great confidence in General Wanchai.

Thus, this does not seem to be the "end of the line" for General Wanchai Ruangtrakun, or Big Huk.

### Advisory Role of Bowonsak Analyzed

91SE0073B Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 17-23 Dec 90  
pp 22, 23

[Excerpt] Of the Ban Phitsanulok policy advisors to the prime minister, Phansak Winyarat, who serves as chief advisor, Dr. Surakiet Sathianthai, and Dr. Kraisak Chunhawan, the son of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, are considered to play a very important role with respect to the decision-making process of the prime minister. But Dr. Bowonsak Uwanno is another person who is just as important as those mentioned above. And in certain cases, he may play an even more important role than those mentioned above.

Dr. Bowonsak was born on 19 October 1954 and is now 36 years old. He earned his doctorate in administrative law from France. Before he became a policy advisor to the prime minister, he was a professor of law at Chulalongkorn University.

He has always taken an interest in a variety of things. Even though he has a doctorate and is a Grade 7 professor in the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, he has maintained an interest in a variety of things. In particular, he came to the public's attention when, along with several dozen other academics, he signed a petition that was submitted to the king. They opposed having General Prem Tinsulanon serve another term as prime minister (today, General Prem is privy counselor and elder statesman).

After that, however, little more was heard about him. He came to the public's attention again when General Chatchai Chunhawan, the leader of the Thai Nation Party, became prime minister and established a special work team commonly referred to as the Ban Phitsanulok policy advisors.

At that time, he was approached by Phansak Winyarat, who was particularly close to Dr. Kraisak Chunhawan, and asked to join the advisory team to the prime minister. They had done things together before, and it was felt that he was an expert on legal matters. After considering the offer for a time, he agreed.

After becoming a policy advisor to the prime minister, Dr. Bowonsak did not stand out from any of the others, because in terms of his personality, he is a rather quiet person. And he was not familiar with the system and did not know the others very well. Thus, everything proceeded smoothly and quietly.

Then, when Mr. Michai Ruchuphan, a legal advisor who had held his position while General Prem Tinsulanon was prime minister, decided to resign, Dr. Bowonsak's importance to General Chatchai began to grow, particularly in the legal field in which he has special expertise.

Because of his importance to the prime minister he was appointed deputy secretary general to the prime minister for political affairs. And not long after that, he was appointed to the Senate.

It's said that he plays a very important role in the decision-making process of the prime minister, not counting Mr. Phithak Intharawithyanan, an advisor to the prime minister, Mr. Phansak Winyarat, the head of the advisory team to the prime minister, and Dr. Kraisak Chunhawan, the prime minister's son. In particular, with respect to legal matters, Dr. Bowonsak has the ability to make use of various legal loopholes in carrying out his duties as an advisor.

However, even though he is very close to the prime minister, he still acts in a very reserved manner in keeping with his personality. There are many people who like his attitude even though he is actually a very sincere and determined man when it comes to his work.

His major project is the reform of our outmoded laws. He feels that it will not be possible for our country to develop if we don't have good laws that serve the people. Besides this major undertaking, the revision of the constitution—the cause of an uproar for a time which died down following the tense political situation—can be considered a product of his thinking in reforming the laws to serve the people.

An important matter is his attempt to find a way to get the democratic system back on track, with one of the major problems thought to be vote buying. However, in giving advice about political matters when asked by Prime Minister Chatchai, Dr. Bowonsak, in his position as an important advisor, always gives advice based on principles and reasons even though the reality of the situation may be otherwise.

He has been involved in various matters such as the cabinet reshuffle, in which three "outsiders" were brought into the cabinet, and the search for a solution to the problems stemming from the mobile radio broadcasts, or the mobile unit vehicle. He has been involved in all these matters to varying degrees in accord with his position as a policy advisor to the prime minister. As a result, many people think that he has interfered in political matters too much. But he has never responded or taken resolute action. Instead, he has constantly reviewed his role. [passage omitted]

### Chatchai Chief Adviser Comments on Political Issues

91SE0070A Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai  
3-9 Dec 90 pp 30-33

[Interview with Chief Policy Adviser to Prime Minister Phansak Winyarat, date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [KHAO PHISET] In interviews with other newspapers, you have said that the prime minister had various options for solving the problems that he could have submitted to the king. Is that true?

[Phansak] The prime minister did have various options that he could have submitted. But how could he do that? The prime minister simply went to pay his respects (on the issue of going to Japan). I get the feeling that you are more interested in the matter of the prime minister resigning than you are in his administration of the country. Actually, political issues are matters of national administration. In my view, if people want to focus on the question of whether the prime minister will or will not resign and use that as a standard of administration, it would be better if they went and watched a play.

[KHAO PHISET] We asked that question because recently, the newspapers have all printed headlines about that. No one knows if that is true or what happened.

[Phansak] What happened is that there was an election in Thailand. Originally, the prime minister had six political parties that supported him. Later on, there were seven. Within the parliamentary system, there are means of checking the fairness of the government, such as convening parliament in order to pose questions, holding no-confidence debates, and passing a resolution not to approve the national budget. These are similar to judicial measures. We have judicial measures in order to have strong courts. And in addition to these measures, there is another element. That is, there are pressure groups that bargain. Some of these groups provide information to the government, and some exert pressure for their own interests. There have been various groups, such as the group that threw things during the "roving" cabinet sessions, the dam group, the banking group, and the merchants group. Some recent groups include the "Lucky Tex" group (labor union), the group of Dr. Prawet, the N.G.O. group, and so on. What the administration must do is respond to these pressure groups. Once it has done so, it will be checked once again by parliament when parliament reconvenes. This is important.

But people are usually more interested in who is going to be moved where. Some people have said that even Mrs. Thatcher resigned and so how can we know that the Thai prime minister won't resign! In a democratic system, every time someone makes a demand, can the government satisfy that demand? The answer is no. No government in the world can do that. I remember when workers demanded an increase in the minimum wage. The three-party committee could not give the workers everything they wanted. But they did bargain and agree to raise the wage over time. "Nothing

is absolute" unless there is a state of "absolute power." Even those who are said to have pure power have to bargain within their circle. Thus, in our young democracy, bargaining is always a complex matter. There are arguments. For example, one minister told me that "things were not like this during the time of the Prem administration. Why are our present cabinet members fighting among themselves so much?" I responded by saying that this is a democracy in which no one is afraid of anyone else. The prime minister once said that democracy is a "local bus," not an "express bus." It stops at every station. Thus, in my view, if everything that happens, such as the lack of unity among cabinet ministers, is viewed as evidence of whether or not the government has yielded to the pressures in a parliamentary system, things will be dark.

Do you know how many times this administration has raised the minimum wage during the two years that it has been in office? We have raised the salaries of government officials and promulgated the first preliminary social insurance law in 38 years. Did anyone dare to do this before? We have reduced the tariff on machinery from 35 percent to five percent. And the people concerned don't have to be well-known people or be promoted by the BOI [Board of Investment]. They can look around. This is Thailand's industrial revolution. This is an economic and political revolution. This is a revolution in terms of the structure of shareholding and the birth of capital of Thai society. We have promulgated a law waiving the collection of import duties on fertilizer. Fertilizer can now be imported freely. The ban on the export of castor beans has been lifted. The tax on insecticides has been repealed. All duties on the export of corn have been lifted. I would like to know what people are interested in.

There are approximately 3-5 million poor people in Thailand. The "roving" cabinet allocated several billions of baht to develop a green northeast. You can look up the exact amount for yourself. In addition to the Green Northeast program, the government has authorized millions of baht for other projects in the northeast. We have considered drawing water from the Mekong River to the point where Laos and Cambodia will criticize us for a drop in the level of the river. You can't say that this government isn't interested in the people in the urban and rural areas, including those in poor zones. Today, about 5 million people are living illegally in forest preserves. What will we do? The prime minister has said that we must develop industry, because we have to get those 5 million people out of the forest preserves.

I admit that Thailand's present bureaucracy must be developed. It must be admitted that the capital system has developed greatly; otherwise, how could we export goods worth 500 billion or have treasury reserves of 100 billion? If things were as bad as some say, the Office of the Auditor General and the Comptroller-General's

Department would have fallen apart by now. Let's compare things with other countries. Why have our treasury reserves increased to 100 million? The last budget that was submitted was a balanced budget. At the same time, problems arose in countries in the Persian Gulf area and so Thailand has had to withdraw 7,000 workers from that area. Those still there are people who have chosen to stay. These people were brought back aboard Boeing 747 aircraft. I would like to ask, Did other countries do that?

In short, after all the criticisms, what results have been achieved? In several important government units such as monetary and finance units, has the government ever appointed people said to be "smooth talkers" to head the units? We have appointed Mr. Atsawin Khongsiri to serve as the managing director of the Industrial Finance Corporation. Mr. Wichit Suphinit has been appointed head of the national bank. The prime minister feels that if a person is a capable person, it doesn't matter how old he is. Even if he is only 40 years old, he will be appointed. Where can you find older people? People of my father's generation have all retired. The criticism that has been made is that the government has appointed outsiders to serve above regular government officials. I would like to ask, What government has dared to promulgate a social insurance law? Was the government elected to look good or to do things that others have not dared do?

[KHAO PHISET] Do you think that our government is strong enough to oppose those who may be considering staging a coup?

[Phansak] I don't want to answer that question. But I will say that a government that is pressured by pressure groups and that can respond to and talk with the pressure groups is a government that will remain in office for a long time. The legitimacy of a government depends on its ability to respond to the demands of the pressure groups while maintaining the system. But the government can't respond to weak courts and so there must be a system. Otherwise, it won't be able to do anything. In the Thai state, the administrative system presently in use is better and so we are trying to preserve this system. And this system has its own strengths. This can be seen from the pages of our books. Twenty years ago, we had just a few books. Today, Thailand has many books. These books are a sign. They are a reflection of society. Thus, my response to your question is that I don't know how long this administration will last. But I am certain that democracy will survive. Thailand is not Burma. There must be compromise. However, nothing is absolute.

[KHAO PHISET] Does that include compromising with certain groups that made demands last week?

[Phansak] Ours is a fledgling democracy. But our government is highly united. The government coalition parties are united. The administration and civil servants are united. Our democratic system was established in order to provide flexibility. There are pressures that the

government must deal with. But the fact that the government can't satisfy all the demands does not mean that the government does not have any legitimacy. For example, the fact that the government was not able to promulgate a final social insurance law doesn't mean that it doesn't have legitimacy, does it? That's the logic of this way of thinking. That is helping the poor people. No matter how much pressure is exerted, things still won't be perfect. A banker in London said that "if you have never had a worthless debt, that shows that you are not a real banker."

[KHAO PHISET] Do you foresee any changes in the near future?

[Phansak] I am not a fortuneteller. But no one can stop the development of Thailand and Thai society.

[KHAO PHISET] Is this the main reason why the government decided to reshuffle the cabinet itself?

[Phansak] It listened to other pressure groups, too, as much as possible.

[KHAO PHISET] Do you think that there will be problems between the military and the government?

[Phansak] As I have said, the prime minister respects every institution and is not doing anything to interfere with them. I don't think that there will be any problems.

[KHAO PHISET] Some people have criticized the statements made by the prime minister, saying that he says one thing one week and another thing the next week. What is your view on this?

[Phansak] Thai society likes to let people talk. But at the same time, the principles are preserved. I don't understand why people don't look at what the prime minister has actually done. Do you think he is a movie star or the nation's leader? You should look at the cabinet's resolutions and ask what things the cabinet has considered and how those things will benefit the country.

[KHAO PHISET] Regarding the adjustment of interest rates, did the Ban Phitsanulok advisory team play a role in this before Dr. Wiraphong announced the rate change?

[Phansak] The advisory team asked to be given the data and has constantly received cooperation from the national bank. But no one can be informed about interest rate increases in advance, because those people could make a huge profit. Let me ask you. What government would dare to raise interest rates at a time when it faces such problems? What I mean is that this government has continued to administer the country even though there are political problems. As you know, last Tuesday (the day of the cabinet meeting), there were many arguments over raising interest rates. This is democracy in action. No one is afraid of anyone else. As far as economic matters are concerned, we must step on the brake a little. Even though the world is experiencing problems, more capital is flowing into the country than is flowing out of

the country. There must be a reason for this. Do you think that businessmen are more stupid than government officials, reporters, or me? They are much smarter. They have ways of analyzing the economic structure of Thai society and are willing to risk investing here.

I am amused by the fact that on its front page, one English-language newspaper published an open letter attacking the government. But that same day, in the business section of this newspaper, the editor-in-chief published a photograph showing plans to cooperate with foreigners in order to expand activities. That was a very large photograph. The article said that they planned to expand activities and then go public on the Thai stock market. They were also building a building and developing various pieces of land. The paper said that the government is no good and that it can't administer the country. It said that the prime minister should resign. That was definitely not a Thai newspaper. If it had been a Thai newspaper, before they wrote anything, they would have had to think first to keep their tongue from becoming twisted. It was very strange.

[KHAO PHISET] Some people have said that even though Thailand's economy is good, we still have many problems, such as prostitution and crime, that stem from poverty. What can we do to solve these problems?

[Phansak] As I said earlier, there are 3-5 million people living in the forest preserves. And don't forget, this administration has been in office for only two and a half years. But these problems have been in existence for many years. If the Thai economy were bad, there would be many more prostitutes. Today, the Bang Na-Trat highway is congested only from Yaowarat to Chonburi. I understand that one of our social problems is the income problem. I feel sorry for Thai prostitutes who have to earn their living from foreigners in the Patphong area. But don't forget that there are people who are sewing clothes like those in the story "Wolf." They sit sewing clothes for foreign tourists. The world is developing, and there is no turning back. What I am saying is the truth. Go and see which goods are selling better in the Patphong area, the goods sold along the street or the liquor sold in the clubs and bars.

[KHAO PHISET] What about the things taking place in the rural areas?

[Phansak] The situation in the rural areas is very difficult. We can't solve the forest problem unless we develop industry. We must solve the problems in the areas that have salt only. We must not allow them to move. They don't want to lead a nomadic life. Some Thais think that the government will have to subsidize them. But if they are given financial support, their lives may not improve. We have to think of things that will really help them. We don't want to ruin their spirit. We can help by digging canals and pumping water from the Mekong River. The government will have to spend money on this.

[KHAO PHISET] Some people feel that development aimed at making Thailand a NIC [newly industrialized country] is

not the proper direction for our country. The New Hope Party, or General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, is opposed to this. He thinks that we must be an industrialized agricultural society. What is your view?

[Phansak] Who has said that Thailand will be a NIC? Try to find anything like that in the speeches made by the prime minister. He has never said that we will become a NIC. Economists have said that we are already a NIC. The prime minister has asked, How can we be a NIC? We don't have even one steel plant. I don't see how we can help becoming an industrialized agricultural country.

#### **Navy Ship Purchase Debate**

91WC0046C Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai  
24-30 Dec 90 p 11

["Intelligence" column]

[Text] It's said that the navy has long wanted to purchase a helicopter carrier, but the matter has never been settled even though this was submitted to the cabinet once before. There have been reports that in the coming fiscal year, the navy will again raise this issue. It wants to purchase two ships, one at a time. The ships aren't too expensive, with each ship costing only about 5 billion. A news source said that regarding this purchase, there has been fighting between Naowarat Phattanodom, the agent of the Italian CNR Company, and Rasi Bualoet, the agent of the German Bumanvot Company. They have used inside forces. But all he knew was that the navy has decided to purchase ships from the latter source. It isn't known whether the cabinet will approve this. This matter is still up in the air and so we will have to wait and see what happens.

#### **Air Force AMX Plane Purchase Plans**

91WC0046B Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai  
24-30 Dec 90 p 11

["Intelligence" column]

[Text] In the end, the air force decided to purchase Italian AMX fighter aircraft through the Commercial Associates Company of Naowarat Phattanodom instead of English-made "Hawk" aircraft. The air force will purchase a total of 40 AMX aircraft and form two flights. It's said that this aircraft is suitable for attacking the enemy above the water. The details have all been worked out. The only thing left is to obtain the approval of the cabinet.

#### **Arms Trader Profiled**

91WC0046A Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai  
24-30 Dec 90 pp 15, 16

[Text] In Thai, and perhaps even foreign, weapons trafficking circles, there is probably no one who does not recognize the surname Phattanodom. This young man is a member of this family and is following in the tradition of his family by working as an arms dealer. Thirawat Phattanodom studied in the United States for more than 10



years with the financial support of his father, Wiwat Phattanodom, and his uncle, Naowarat Phattanodom. After he completed his studies, he went to work in the family business. Today, he holds the position of sales representative for the Commercial and Associates Ltd Company.

"I am not afraid of being criticized by anyone, because it's the military that makes the decisions about buying weapons," said this 28-year-old man when asked whether he has ever been criticized for working in this field.

Ordinary people usually think of arms traders as very wealthy people who are far from ordinary. But from the point of view of arms traders such as Thirawat, "arms traders receive a very small percentage. Those who sell noodles along the streets make a greater profit than those who sell weapons." This answer probably won't change the general view of most people. That's because each arms deal involves a lot more money than a six digit figure. Even if the agent receives less than 10 percent or receives only 1-2 percent, he can still become a millionaire.

"We are not agents. We coordinate things," said this young man after he was referred to as an arms agent. Each arms trading deal takes a lot of time. Costs are an important factor in that respect. These are not small items. His reason was that it often takes more time that it's worth. His longest project took up to 10 years.

The Phattanodom family is well-known in the highest social circles. But there have never been any reports about this family engaging in any other business activities. This member of the family thought a moment and said there aren't any other activities. He said that family members all work together (so that the money doesn't flow out).

Every day, Thirawat, who is involved in arms trading activities, goes to see air force officials. That's because his responsibilities relate directly to air force aircraft. Today, there are three large sales projects: to sell Fogger 100 aircraft to Thai Airways International within the next 5 years, to sell helicopters to the royal family, and to sell AMX aircraft to the air force.

When asked what his greatest success has been during the 2 years that he has been on the job, he responded by saying that "I haven't had any major successes." That surprised us greatly. But from our conversation, we got the feeling that it takes a long time to complete an arms deal. But when you do make a deal, you make a huge sum of money.

"Salesmen must be single," was the answer we received when we asked if he was married. It probably won't be too long before we hear more about this rather serious young man, who is a member of Thailand's arms trading circles.

### Anti-Submarine Helicopters

91WC0048B Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai  
7-13 Jan 91 p 11

[Excerpt] M.C. Wan has already reported on the purchase of Chinese-made frigates and Chinese-made C-801 missiles, which will be installed aboard these frigates, numbered 456, 457, 458, and 459, in this issue of LAK THAI. Here, we would like to report that the stern end of the third and fourth frigates, that is, frigates 458 and 459, will be modified. The navy wants to have landing pads for anti-submarine and sea-attack helicopters. It is too late to modify the first two frigates, that is, frigates 456 and 457. The navy has decided to equip these frigates with SH-2 G C-Sprit helicopters, which are made by the Caman Company in the United States. [passage omitted]

### Air Force AMX Purchase Discussed

91WC0048C Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai  
26 Nov 90-2 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Air Marshal Samat Sotsathit, the assistant air force chief of staff for operations, returned from Italy on 14 November. He went there to discuss the purchase of 25 AMX fighter-attack aircraft. The air force had already agreed to purchase these aircraft, but there were still many details that had to be discussed with the Selennia Company, the builder, so that the air force derives the greatest benefit possible. These 25 AMX aircraft, 20 of which will be single-seat aircraft and 5 of which will be twin-seat aircraft used for training purposes, will cost a total of approximately 10,088 million baht. That is a very large sum of money. The air force has asked that money be budgeted for this over a 5 year period. There shouldn't be any political problems, because "Uncle Chatchai" has already given the green light. As for the details about the purchase and cost of these aircraft, M.C. Wan doesn't know much more than this. We certainly don't know as much as a civilian named "Phithak." We are trying to learn the full name of this man, because there are many people named Phithak in Thailand.

### Aircraft Acquisition Noted

91WC0048D Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai  
24 Dec 90-6 Jan 91 p 10

[Text] The air force has obtained two more super-type C-130 transport aircraft for a total of eight such aircraft. The target is to purchase two aircraft each year until the air force has 12 of these aircraft. At the same time, next year, the air force will have to begin replacing its C-123 medium-sized transport aircraft, which are now growing old. The most likely replacement is the Indonesian Kasa-212. As for fighter aircraft, the air force will purchase 25 Italian-made AMX aircraft, as M.C. Wan has already reported. As for other weapons, the anti-aircraft missiles used by the Anti-Aircraft Directorate and the RTAF [Royal Thai Air Force] Security Forces,

which use Sort missiles, will need to be replaced next year, too. M.C. Wan has been told that after all the fighting among arms traders from several countries to supply new missiles, for which approximately 500 million baht has been allotted, the air force has chosen the Matra anti-aircraft missile. The purchase contract will be signed in the near future. This missile is quite different from other types of missiles. Air Marshal Chaloe Worintharakhom, the commander of the RTAF Security Forces, and Air Chief Marshal Anan Klintha, the air force chief of staff, are very pleased with this missile.

#### Details of AMX Aircraft Acquisition

91WC0049A Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai  
14-20 Jan 91 pp 28-34

[Interview with Air Vice Marshal Soemyut Bunsiriya, the director of RTAF Directorate of Operations; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] No matter what the period or who the commander-in-chief is, the greatest dream of the air force is always the purchase of more fighter aircraft. [passage omitted]

In this report, we would like to discuss the purchase of a new flight of fighter aircraft. [passage omitted]

In response to the questions asked by KHAO PHISET on the afternoon of 25 December 1990, the director of operations said that in the near future, the air force will be able to provide support services to fishermen, because the air force will have radar and radio systems to warn them when they approach the territorial waters of neighboring countries. And if a Thai fishing boat is harassed by enemy ships, RTAF [Royal Thai Air Force] aircraft will be able to provide protection or immediately warn the enemy ships.

It's not just the government and air force that sees the value of this program. Even academics such as Professor Kroekiet Phiphatseritham, the rector of Thammasat University, has said that "today, the country's most important sea lane is the Gulf of Thailand. Unless we have sufficient naval and air forces to protect this transport route, our economy could be adversely affected. National Defense forces provide bargaining power."

Finally, another important reason that no one dares talk about is the purchase of "Hawk 200" fighter aircraft by the Malaysian air force at the end of last year. Malaysia is a fellow ASEAN country that shares a border with Thailand. There were reports that besides the Hawk 200, Malaysia also ordered Hawk 100 aircraft to serve as training aircraft. After that, there were reports that Brunei is purchasing the same type of aircraft to defend its territorial waters. This is part of a major program to improve its national defense capabilities. Up to \$1,275 million (approximately 31,875 million baht) has been allotted for this program.

"This is an effort to achieve a balance of power with neighboring countries. We can't say anything about this," said an air force news source.

Perhaps his statement provides an important reason.

#### Why the AMX?

The need to defend our territorial waters made it necessary to purchase aircraft. But why was it necessary to purchase AMX aircraft?

Those best able to answer this question are the members of three special committees established by the air force. The three committees are:

1. The model selection committee: This committee is composed of important figures such as Air Marshal Prachum Chaisiri, the deputy RTAF chief of staff, Air Marshal Samat Sotsathit, the assistant RTAF chief of staff for operations, and Air Vice Marshal Soemyut Bunsiriya, the director of operations.

2. The purchasing committee: Some of the members of this committee are also members of the first committee. Other members include various specialists.

3. The committee to draft a contract: The duty of this committee is to monitor things to ensure that the company manufacturing the aircraft does not take advantage of the air force.

Of these three committees, it is the first one that is the most important, because it is the one that will decide which type of aircraft to purchase. After it makes its decision, the matter will be turned over to the other committees for consideration and then to the RTAF CINC. The matter will also be submitted to the supreme commander and to the minister of defense, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, in order to seek authorization from the cabinet.

The most recent statement given to KHAO PHISET by the director of operations, Air Vice Marshal Soemyut, states that the matter is still being considered by the air force. But other news sources have said that the decision on which aircraft to buy has already been made, with the choice being the Italian AMX.

The AMX is a fighter aircraft produced jointly by three companies:

The Aeritalia Company of Italy will produce 46.5 percent of the aircraft.

The Aermacchi Company of Italy will produce 23.8 percent.

The Embraer Company of Brazil will produce 29.7 percent. Each company will produce parts based on its particular field of expertise (see chart).

In Thailand, the agent, or sales representative for this aircraft is the Commercial Associates Company Ltd.,

which is owned by Mr Naowarat Phattanodom, a well-known figure in Thai arms trading circles.

"In the past, we had much success in selling Bell helicopters to the army. Actually, prior to that, we sold 109 Stingray tanks and a number of V-150 Tornado armored vehicles. That does not include the two frigates that my uncle sold to the navy," said Thirawat Phattanodom, the 28-year-old nephew of the owner of Commercial Associates, to KHAO PHISSET. He has played an important role in the sale of AMX aircraft to the air force.

The AMX was test flown at Korat at the beginning of this year. It also performed at an air show in England in August, and many senior officers in the air force went to see it," said Thirawat.

But comparing the AMX and the Hawk aircraft made by the British Aerospec Company of England, which is represented here by the Locksley Company of Chatchani Chatkawanit, the nephew of Naowarat Phattanodom said that the Hawk costs 15-20 percent more. He also said that the air force will buy 40 AMX aircraft, some of which are two-seat training aircraft. The air force plans to form two flights to carry out operations over Thailand's territorial waters.

"The company that produces the aircraft and the Thai air force, on behalf of the Thai government, will sign the contract within the next 6 months," said Thirawat. He seems very sure that the proposal by the air force will easily win approval.

Squadron Leader Tharanin Tanthasen, who is assigned to the Planning and Projects Division, RTAF Office of the Secretary, supports the decision of the Model Selection Committee. He said that the AMX has been designed to serve as a fighter-attack aircraft. In particular, it has been designed to attack targets on the ground and water, or "air-to-ground" as it is called. Its performance capabilities error rate is only .05 percent. In making attacks, it has radar- and missile-evading capabilities, and it is very accurate in hitting the targets. It flies at a speed of around 400 knots, or about half the speed of the U.S. F-16 fighter aircraft.

As for the weapons systems of this aircraft, KHAO PHISSET has been informed that the AMX can be equipped with several types of weapons depending on the needs of the buyer. Normally, it is equipped with air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, ordinary bombs, and laser-guided bombs. The buyer can also choose to install weapons produced by other companies.

This aircraft uses a Rolls Royce engine that can be self-started without having to use an outside electrical source. The aircraft is structurally very strong. The contract also calls for the purchase of parts. This is a "package" purchase.

"If we buy this aircraft, we will sign a contract with the AMX International United Company, which is a joint company composed of the three smaller companies," said Squadron Leader Tharanin. He added that to date,

317 AMX aircraft have been commissioned in the air forces of Italy and Brazil. The Italian air force has 187 single-seat and 51 twin-seat AMX aircraft. Brazil has 65 single-seat and 14 twin-seat aircraft.

#### **The AMX Verses the Hawk—Naowarat Verses Chatchani**

It is well known that there are three competing companies that have been trying to sell aircraft to the air force. The three are the British Aerospec Company, which produces the Hawk aircraft, the AMX International United Company, which produces the AMX, and the Singapore Aerospec Company, which produces the A-4 SU Super Skyhawk. This third aircraft, however, is not being considered by the Model Selection Committee.

Thus, it is a fight between the AMX and the Hawk or Naowarat Phattanodom and Chatchani Chatkawanit.

A news source in the Commercial Associates Company said that the Model Selection Committee has decided to purchase the AMX aircraft, which his company represents. The proposal is now pending the approval of the supreme commander, the Ministry of Defense, and the cabinet. This news has greatly disappointed the Locksley Company of Chatchani.

Recently, an arms journal published an article about the purchase of aircraft by the air force. The article talked mainly about the good points of the Hawk aircraft and pointed out the weaknesses of the AMX.

With respect to the criticisms made, besides the matter of price, it also said that the AMX has fewer capabilities. The article said that the two flights of aircraft that the air force plans to purchase may cost up to 10 billion baht. The Hawk would be cheaper to buy, and it has greater capabilities. Part of the high cost of the AMX stems from modifying it to have a twin-seat aircraft, which the air force needs for training purposes. The AMX was originally designed as a single-seat fighter and ground attack aircraft. Because it was designed as a fighter-attack aircraft, it lacks "flexibility" when used for other tactical missions such as making reconnaissance flights. This is very different from the Hawk. Because besides the Hawk 100, which is a training aircraft, the aircraft has technological capabilities suited to many other types of missions.

The show points of the Hawk 200, which is the competitor of the AMX, are its radar and weapons systems. A translated article stated that the Hawk 200 uses the APG-66 T radar system made by Westinghouse, which has been used by the F-16 aircraft. It would be difficult to install this radar system on the AMX.

Conversely, the AMX is well suited for three types of radar, the GRIFO ASV system, which is a sea-attack radar system, the GRIFO-X ground-attack fire control radar system, which is produced by the FIAR Company, and the Plus Dopplar SCP-01 radar system. However, none of these radar system have even been used on the AMX fighter aircraft even though these aircraft have been deployed in

Italy and Brazil, which are the countries that produce these systems. The reason is that these radar systems have only recently been tested in the laboratory.

As for weapons systems, the Hawk aircraft can be equipped with ordinary weapons, guided missiles for attacking surface ships and radar sites, and air-to-air guided missiles whose capabilities have already been tested. The AMX, on the other hand, has been equipped with AM-39 Exocet missiles, a well-known missile used to attack ships, and AIM-SP Sidewinder air-to-air guided missiles. But these systems have never been tested to determine how suited they are to the AMX.

Another important point that should not be overlooked is the strict measures implemented by Italy for those who want to purchase weapons and parts for the AMX. These strict measures could become an obstacle in the future for countries that purchase weapons and equipment from this country.

However, it can be said that all of this is just an attempt by the arms companies to "put the other down." In reality, as far as the technical details are concerned, no one knows which aircraft or weapons system is superior.

KHAO PHISET would like to pass on the views of a former "Big" in the air force. Concerning the purchase of these aircraft, he said that "the main reason why the air force decided to purchase the AMX is that the commission paid was very high."

Who would know more about this than a person concerned during the time of "Big Te," Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin!

**Air Vice Marshal [AVM] Soemyut Bunsiriya, the Director of Operations**

[KHAO PHISET] Would you tell us the steps involved in the air force's purchase of aircraft and discuss the mission of these new flights?

[AVM Soemyut] First of all, it should be understood that normally, it is the Public Relations Division of the RTAF Office of the Secretary that is directly responsible for releasing information. What I will discuss are policy matters that can be printed in the press. Concerning this matter, the prime minister visited the air force in January 1990 and told us what his policy was. He said that we had to build up our forces so that we can defend the nation's interests at sea, because we have huge sea resources such as oil wells, minerals, natural gas, and in particular, fishing resources. We have economic territorial waters and developed zones on the eastern and southern seaboard. We have interests in these areas along with the governments of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia. And to the west, in the Andaman Sea, there is Burma. All of these areas are vital to the nation's interests.

Today, various countries are at war with each other because of disputes over interests, meaning natural resources. If we don't have an air force that is capable of defending the nation's interests, who will perform this function? Air forces

are well suited to defending interests at sea. First, the air force has deterrence power. Because if we have strong forces, others won't dare bother us. If they want to fight us, they will have to find some other way. This lessens the likelihood of a confrontation. Second, air forces are highly flexible, that is, if we think that the enemy is approaching from a particular direction or that an enemy warship is coming to attack us, we can reach the target immediately, moving from one point to another. This all depends on what we decide to do. We could, for example, launch an attack, make reconnaissance patrols, or take photographs and listen in on their broadcasts.

Thus, air power is one form of power that can be used in bargaining in accord with the first two points. That is, force can be used, too. Third, we have good air forces. We can provide help in other ways such as helping fishermen. We have radar and radios. We can warn fishermen when they approach the territorial waters of other countries. If they are harassed and we see this, we can alert our boats and warn our enemies. If it becomes necessary to negotiate, we can take photographs. All of this is necessary for our interests at sea. The purchase of aircraft is in line with this policy. But no decision has been made on which type of aircraft to buy.

[KHAO PHISET] How many aircraft will the air force need to defend our territorial waters?

[AVM Soemyut] Just like cars and trucks, there are many types of aircraft. We have to have aircraft for transporting cargo and men. We have to have aircraft that can fire weapons and take pictures and see things in general. We want to obtain aircraft such as these. We have to have aircraft that can go to an area and determine where our aircraft and ships are and where the boundaries of our territorial waters are. That is, we need command aircraft. As for how many aircraft we need, because our air forces must be highly flexible, if we had just a single aircraft, we couldn't attack points A, B and C simultaneously. But we don't need a large number of aircraft. This depends on the budget, and the navy is partly responsible for this, too.

[KHAO PHISET] What type of aircraft is best suited for such a mission?

[AVM Soemyut] We have confidence in the British Hawk 100 and Hawk 200. There is also the AMX and the Jaguar. Recently, the newspapers printed stories stating that Malaysia has purchased a flight of Hawk aircraft at a cost of more than \$20 million each.

[KHAO PHISET] How many did they purchase?

[AVM Soemyut] We don't know. Actually, there are two ways to purchase aircraft. One is to buy just the aircraft. The other is to arrange a package deal, which includes

buying parts and so on. But that costs about 20 percent more. Thus, we can't say whether the price was high or not. Some people make private purchases. That is, they buy the plane and fly it away without any additional equipment. In that case, the price might be only \$15 million. But if you buy the package, you may pay \$20 million. In that case, the aircraft would come equipped with radar and other systems. Some people are stingy and refuse to install radar and so the price will be cheap. Thus, the prices published in the newspapers are sometimes misleading.

[KHAO PHISSET] Are they far wide of the mark?

[AVM Soemyut] Yes, because in making a package purchase, the cost of the equipment installed on the aircraft may account for more than 60 percent of the cost of the aircraft. The radar installed on an aircraft may cost 50-100 million. This depends on the make and purposes. The installation of weapons is not easy. This requires much electrical wiring. Also, there must be a viewing screen for pilots like a television screen. This tells the pilots at what altitude they are flying and where the enemy is. Thus, it's difficult to say which one is cheap and which one is expensive. It's the same as when we purchased F-16 aircraft. The prices offered by other countries were different, sometimes by as much as 50-100 million. It's like buying a car. If the car comes fully equipped, it will be more expensive. The equipment is not all the same, and the same is true for engines.

[KHAO PHISSET] Would you compare the capabilities of the Hawk and the AMX and tell us how these aircraft differ?

[AVM Soemyut] The thing to compare is their reliability. We have to see what engines they use. Everyone knows that Rolls Royce engines are very reliable.

[KHAO PHISSET] Is the Rolls Royce engine the most reliable engine?

[AVM Soemyut] It depends. Some people prefer General Electric engines. Others like Rolls Royce or Lasat engines. People have different views. Engineers want to know how much power it has and how much it weighs. A good engine must be small and light and have much power. It must be 100 percent reliable. Some types don't operate very well at low altitudes. But we need an aircraft that can fly low over the ocean. Thus, we can't use some types of engines. We have to look at the design of the aircraft, too, and see if it is made of lightweight materials. The lighter the aircraft the better, because that makes it easier to fly. Another issue is maintenance. If you purchase an aircraft and it's difficult to maintain, such as the outmoded Chinese aircraft, you will be in trouble. Maintenance is a very important factor. Some aircraft have to be overhauled after just 200 hours of flying. The Chinese aircraft, for example, have to be overhauled after just 100 hours. That costs money. Thus, in purchasing an aircraft, we have to look at many factors. We also have to consider our budget. After purchasing an aircraft, we have to train people and

consider what is called "after sales service." There are many things that have to be considered.

[KHAO PHISSET] All things considered, which is better, the Hawk or the AMX?

[AVM Soemyut] I don't want to answer that question, because we haven't decided which aircraft to buy. We still haven't made a decision. We can't say anything until after the cabinet gives its approval. That is the right answer.

[KHAO PHISSET] It's been said that the air force has already decided to purchase the AMX.

[AVM Soemyut] If that was so, I would know about it. But the matter is still being considered by the committee. The air force has not made a decision. We have a Model Selection Committee composed of people from several sectors, such as pilots, communications engineers, technicians, and so on who are experts about the various aspects of aircraft. The Directorate of Operations is represented, too. The committee chairman is an air chief marshal. Committee members come from the Directorate of Operations, the Directorate of Logistics, and the other directorates concerned.

[KHAO PHISSET] When will a decision be made and the matter submitted to the next higher level?

[AVM Soemyut] I don't know, because my task has been completed. It's now up to others. The air force is composed of many directorates. One directorate does not interfere in the affairs of another directorate. Once we have completed our job, we stay out of things. If someone completes his job but continues to interfere, that just causes problems.

[KHAO PHISSET] In accord with the program, the air force wants to secure budget funds next year, isn't that right?

[AVM Soemyut] We depend on the government. The government feels that we have large amounts of natural resources and that there is a danger of war. Iraq, for example, seized Kuwait. We need to ready forces as quickly as possible to deal with such events. It depends on what the government wants us to do. In view of the fact that our natural resources are in danger because of the fact that our development zones are contiguous, the government will have to approve this quickly. It may be this year. Because if the decision to purchase aircraft is made this year, it will be 3 years before we actually take delivery of the aircraft. It's not like ordering a bowl of noodles, where your order is delivered almost immediately. We will have to wait 3 years.

[KHAO PHISSET] Can you tell us how many aircraft will be needed?

[AVM Soemyut] We don't know for sure. It depends on the budget. It's up to the government. The air force would like the number called for in the plan. Thus, we don't know the exact number. The aircraft will have to

be capable of performing reconnaissance missions. They must have radar. We must have command aircraft. There must be a package deal. I can't say how many of this or that.

[KHAO PHISSET] We need aircraft before other things, right?

[AVM Soemyut] We need them at the same time. A fighter aircraft can't see anything. It must have radar. Today, an ordinary aircraft is like a blind person. It must be equipped with radar. We have to purchase them one at a time. If we want the aircraft in 3 years, we have to sign the contract now. As for the things that we can get in 2 years, we can sign the contract later.

[KHAO PHISSET] Can you tell us what the maximum and minimum amounts are that have been allotted for this?

[AVM Soemyut] That's difficult to answer. But I can give you a rough estimate. AMX aircraft cost about \$15-20 million each. The Hawk aircraft purchased by Malaysia costs about \$20 million. But we already have a flight of F-16 aircraft, which are excellent aircraft.

[KHAO PHISSET] There have been reports that the navy wants to buy a helicopter carrier. Will the air force be involved in any way?

[AVM Soemyut] I don't know what the navy plans to buy ships for. I don't think that they will buy an aircraft carrier, because that is a special type of ship that requires special equipment. Aircraft can't use the ship that they plan to buy. That ship is used for helicopters.

[KHAO PHISSET] If they buy that ship, that will cost billions of baht. Will there be a battle between the air force and the navy for budget funds?

[AVM Soemyut] With a quality service such as ours, we don't need to battle anyone. If it's necessary and the country sees the importance of purchasing ships, we will have to accept that. There is no need to fight each other.

[KHAO PHISSET] Suppose that others or the government don't agree, claiming that our southern waters border a friendly country and that there is no need to defend those waters or fight anyone. How would the air force respond to that?

[AVM Soemyut] In response to that question, let me give you an example. In the past, Vietnam and Thailand were friends, and China and Thailand were enemies. But now, China and Thailand are friends. We may be friends with some country now. But who knows what things will be like tomorrow or the day after. If someone could guarantee that we will remain friends, there would be no need to have an air force if that person could revive the air force immediately.

[KHAO PHISSET] As for Malaysia, besides the Hawk, do they have any other good aircraft?

[AVM Soemyut] Whether an aircraft is good or not is another matter. The important thing is intentions. As I told you, we are not purchasing aircraft so that we can attack someone. Rather, we want to have internal power. That is, we want to have deterrence power. If we do, no one will want to fight us because of our power. "Deterrence" entails three things. First, we must have modern and efficient weapons. Second, we must make it clear to others that if they interfere with us, they may suffer dearly because of our weapons capabilities. Third, there must be a show of power, that is, we must train and fire our weapons just as at shows. In combat, we have never been afraid of anyone, but we have never had an advantage. Singapore and Malaysia have had an advantage. The balance of power that arose caused conflicts. We don't want to say anything about those countries that might harm our friendly relations.

[KHAO PHISSET] But if they have such aircraft, we will want similar aircraft. Doesn't that play a part?

[AVM Soemyut] If the pilots are well trained, inferior aircraft can win. If the pilots are not well-trained, even good aircraft will lose. There are many factors, such as training, the weapons system, and policies. But as compared with others in this region, our training is as good as anyone's.

[KHAO PHISSET] Are you troubled by the decision about which aircraft to buy?

[AVM Soemyut] No. We have to see what power plant and weapons system the aircraft is equipped with and the other characteristics of the aircraft, such as maintenance, its reliability, and what missions it can perform. There are many factors. It isn't a matter of being troubled, but this requires much thought. Actually, we don't refer to a modern aircraft as a plane but as a weapons system. Because an aircraft is like a weapons carrier. The pilot sits in a tiny seat, but beneath his seat is something that costs millions of baht. The aircraft alone costs several hundred millions of baht. The pilot must be confident of winning and of not being shot down. It costs about 10 million to train each pilot.

[KHAO PHISSET] If we buy new aircraft, what weapons will be installed?

[AVM Soemyut] We will install weapons that can attack targets on the ground, at sea, and in the air. That is all the weapons systems there are. Air weapons are referred to as air-to-air weapons. For ground targets, they are referred to as air-to-ground weapons, and for targets at sea, they are called air-to-sea weapons. One of the best features of the AMX is its speed. It can fly about 700-800 km per hour and carry 6-7,000 pounds of bombs. Brazil and Italy are now using this aircraft. They say that five or six other countries are purchasing this aircraft. But I don't know which countries. I went and watched a demonstration of this aircraft 6-7 months ago.

**Class 6 Cavalry General, Unit Profiled**

91SE0074A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai  
3-9 Dec 90 pp 14, 15

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Everyone would like to know more about Major General Thotsaphon Songsuwan, the commander of the 2d Cavalry Division. People want to know what he thinks and what his position is in the present troubling situation.

"Perhaps it's because the prime minister is a former cavalry officer, but I feel that this is the prime minister's base, his source of strength," said Major General Thotsaphon to KHAO PHISSET on 29 November. He spoke in a normal tone of voice and had the bearing of a professional soldier. [passage omitted]

The 2d Cavalry Division is directly subordinate to the RTA CINC. The division has a full complement of men with three cavalry regiments: the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Regiment (Kia Kai, Bangkok), the 4th King's Guard Cavalry Regiment (Saraburi), and the 5th Cavalry Regiment (Saraburi). Each of these regiments is composed of three battalions.

Major General Thotsaphon refused to discuss the importance of this division in a coup situation. All he would say, in a joking manner, was that "if there is a coup, our duty is to wipe out the tanks."

Of the army's 17 divisions, the class with the largest number of members serving as divisional commanders is CRMA (Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy) Class 11, the class of Major General Chainarong Nunphakdi, the commander of the 1st King's Guard Division. There are six divisional commanders in this class. Major General Thotsaphon is considered to be the most senior divisional commander. That is, he is a member of CRMA Class 6, the same class as Police General Manat Khrutchaiyan, the deputy director-general of the Police Department, Police Major General Thanu Homwon, the deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Lieutenant General Pramon Phalasin, the deputy army chief of staff, and Major General Suwit Chaiprapha, the commander of the Artillery Division. Thus, Major General Thotsaphon is one of the two members of Class 6 now serving as divisional commanders.

Before he was appointed commander of the 2d Cavalry Division in October 1988, Major General Thotsaphon served as the commander of the 4th King's Guard Cavalry Battalion, the deputy commander of the 1st King's Guard Cavalry Division, and director of the Veterinary Department.

"Do you know, I once wanted to be a train engineer," said Mr. General Thotsaphon. That was when he was still a student at Thepsirin School, the same school attended by Prime Minister Chatchai. But his dream of becoming a train engineer changed when a friend persuaded him to attend the military academy. He has served in the military ever since.

As for his personal life, Major General Thotsaphon is married and has two sons. "Neither one wants to be a soldier. The older one received his master's degree in the United States. The younger one is studying to become a teacher and doesn't know whether he will continue his studies, because his clothing store in Siam Square is doing very well."

Major General Thotsaphon refused to say anything about the present political or military situation. But he is 1 of 10 divisional commanders who went and had coffee in the office of General Wirot Saengsanit, the army chief of staff, on 21 November amidst the rumors that either the RTA CINC or an MP would be dismissed. That day, Major General Samphao Chusi, the commander of the AAA Division and a member of CRMA Class 12, told people, "Don't touch my boss." Major General Thotsaphon said only that it was normal to go and have a cup of coffee.

KHAO PHISSET asked Major General Thotsaphon about the reports that the 2d Cavalry Division had sent forces to protect the home of General Chatchai when General Chawalit resigned (11 June 1990) and the situation became tense. Major General Thotsaphon laughed a little and then said that General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, his former commander, had telephoned him.

"He criticized me sharply. But he knows where I stand. I served under him from the time I was a Major until I was promoted to senior colonel. I served under him for a long time. He knows that I would not have done that."

Near the end of our conversation, KHAO PHISSET asked about the rumor that Major General Manun Rupkhachon will be appointed commander of the 2d Cavalry Division, because there have been rumors about this for several months. Major General Thotsaphon thought a moment and then said that that is probably just a rumor. What is more likely is that Major General Manun will be promoted to lieutenant general and appointed to some other position.

"But I don't know for sure. That is for senior commanders to decide," said Major General Thotsaphon. [passage omitted]

## POLITICAL

### Consular Regulations Made Public

912E0070A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
28 Nov 90 p 3

[Consular Order signed by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the State Council]

[Text] On 24 November 1990, the chairman of the State Council, Vo Chi Cong, signed the order to disclose the Consular Order promulgated by the State Council on 13 November. The following is the complete text of the order:

In order to develop friendly and cooperative relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and other countries and to protect the rights and interests of the state and Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens abroad, based on articles 14 and 100 of the constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, this order hereby stipulates the consular organizations and activities of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in foreign countries.

## SECTION I

### General Stipulations

#### Article 1: Consular organizations

The consular organizations of the SRV include consulates-general and consulates.

A consulate-general is headed by a consul-general, and a consulate is headed by a consul. Below, both will be referred to as "consuls."

#### Article 2: The tasks and powers of consular organizations

Consular organizations have the following tasks and powers:

1. To protect the rights and interests of the state and Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens in foreign countries.
2. To contribute to developing and expanding friendly and cooperative relations with the host country; to study the laws, the economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technical, and tourist situation, and the situation in other spheres; and to discover the capabilities, degree to which, and specialized sectors with which Vietnam can or should cooperate in order to help the agencies and organizations concerned develop a cooperative relationship with the host country.
3. To study the capabilities for developing consular relations with the host countries; to study the consular relationships between the host country and other countries; and to make suggestions on signing international treaties related to consular relationships.

#### Article 3: Principles regarding carrying out consular functions

1. Consuls must carry out the consular functions in accord with the stipulations of this law. Consuls may also carry out other functions that are not contrary to Vietnamese law and that are approved by the host country.

2. Consuls may begin to carry out their functions when they are approved by the host country.

3. Consuls may carry out the functions directly or delegate them to other consular officials.

4. Those carrying out the consular functions in an organization representing Vietnamese foreign affairs must carry out the functions in the host country in accord with the stipulations of this order.

Article 4: Implementation of consular functions related to a third country

1. The Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs may order a consul to carry on consular functions in a third country if that country agrees.

2. A consul can carry on consular functions as requested by a third country if the Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs authorizes this and the host country agrees.

Article 5: Carrying out diplomatic functions

The Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs can entrust a consul with the task of carrying on a number of diplomatic functions if there are no Vietnamese diplomats in that country and if that country agrees.

Article 6: Application of international treaties

In situations in which international treaties that Vietnam and the host country have signed or in which they participate have different stipulations, the consul is to apply the stipulations of that international treaty.

Article 7: Value of the documents issued by consular organizations

The documents issued by Vietnamese consular organizations in accord with the stipulations of this law have the same value as documents issued by domestic Vietnamese state organizations.

## SECTION II

### Organization of Consular Organizations

#### Article 8: Establishment of consular organizations

1. The arrangement of the consular organizations, consular zones, and consular office sites must be done with the consent of the host country.

Consular zones are zones that have been reserved by the host country for consular organizations so that they can carry out their functions.

2. It is the Council of Ministers that makes decisions on the establishment of consular organizations.



**Article 9: Members of consular organizations**

The members of a consular organization include the consular officials and the consular employees.

Consular officials include consuls-general, consuls, vice consuls, and consular attaches. Consular officials must be Vietnamese citizens.

Consular employees include people who perform administrative and technical work and who perform services in the consular organization. Consular employees may be Vietnamese citizens or foreign nationals.

**Article 10: Appointment, discharge, and recall of consuls**

1. The minister of foreign affairs is responsible for appointing, discharging, and recalling consuls.

2. When appointing a consul, the minister of foreign affairs will issue that person a "Letter of Appointment."

**Article 11: Appointment of people to temporarily head consular organizations**

In cases in which the head of a consular organization is temporarily absent or for some reason cannot carry out his functions, the head of the Vietnamese diplomatic organization in the host country may appoint a consular official from that consular organization or from some other consular organization or an official from the Vietnamese diplomatic organization to that position on a temporary basis. If there is no Vietnamese diplomatic organization in that country, the highest ranking official in that consular organization can temporarily serve as head of that organization. This must be reported immediately to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Article 12: Principles regarding the organization and activities of consular organizations**

1. Consular organizations are directly subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and operate under the leadership of the head of the Vietnamese diplomatic organization in the host country. In cases in which there is no Vietnamese diplomatic organization in the host country, the consular organization operates under the leadership of the head of the acting diplomatic organization or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Consular organizations must operate in accord with the stipulations of this law, the stipulations of other Vietnamese laws, the international treaties signed by Vietnam and the host country, and international practices.

**Article 13: Work relations**

1. Consuls have the right to contact local officials in the consular zone concerning problems related to consular activities.

If they need to contact an official of the central administration, the consul must do so through the Vietnamese diplomatic organization in the host country. In cases in

which there is no diplomatic organization in that country, the consul can contact the official directly if the laws and practices of the host country permit that or if Vietnam and the host country have previously reached an agreement on that.

2. When performing a task, the consul has the right to contact central and local agencies and organizations in the country through the Vietnamese diplomatic organization in the host country. If the matter is urgent, they can make contact directly. At the same time, they must inform the head of the diplomatic organization.

3. In cases mentioned in Paragraph 2 of this article, the consul must also report this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Article 14: National flag, state emblem, seals, and consular organization sign**

1. Consular organizations have the right to fly the Vietnamese national flag and hang the state emblem at their offices.

Consuls have the right to fly the Vietnamese national flag at their house and on their vehicles when using those vehicles for official business.

2. Consular organizations have round seals bearing the state emblem and name of the consular organization in the Vietnamese language.

3. Consular organizations can display the name of the consular organization in both the Vietnamese language and the language of the host country at their offices.

**Article 15: Honorary consuls**

1. Honorary consuls are not professional consuls, and they are not on the Vietnamese state staff.

In places where there have been requests for consular services but Vietnam is unable to establish an organization or send consular officials, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the right to appoint an honorary consul. Honorary consuls may be Vietnamese citizens or citizens of another country.

2. Honorary consuls can carry out a number of consular functions as directed by the minister of foreign affairs.

3. The minister of foreign affairs can, based on this law, promulgate regulations on honorary consuls after the regulations have been approved by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

**SECTION III****Consular Functions With Respect to Juristic Entities and Citizens****Article 16: Registering and keeping statistics on citizens**

1. The consul must register and keep statistics on the Vietnamese citizens living in the consular zone and issue them the appropriate documents.

2. When the Vietnamese state organizations with jurisdiction in the country issue a directive, the consul must register Vietnamese citizens in the consular zone for military draft.

Article 17: Upholding the law

1. Consuls must do everything possible to ensure that Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens enjoy all the rights and interests granted by the laws of the host country and by the international treaties signed by Vietnam and the host country or by international practice.

2. If the legitimate rights and interests of Vietnamese juristic entities or citizens are violated, the consul must do everything possible to restore those legitimate rights and interests.

Article 18: Helping citizens in cases in which they have been arrested, temporarily detained, or imprisoned

Consuls are responsible for ensuring that the arrest, temporary detainment, imprisonment, or restriction of personal freedom in any form of a Vietnamese citizen in the consular zone is done in accord with the laws of the host country, the international treaties signed by Vietnam and the host country, or international practices.

The consul is responsible for staying in contact with or visiting Vietnamese citizens who are being detained temporarily or who are serving prison sentences. They must find out what happened, learn the conditions of their detention, and take the necessary measures to ensure that they are treated in accord with the law.

Article 19: Representing juristic entities and citizens

1. Consuls are legal representatives. They are responsible for representing or providing representation for Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens in the consular zone who are absent and who have not appointed someone else to represent them or who for some reason cannot protect their own rights and interests.

2. Representation as mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this article will stop when the juristic entity or citizen appoints a representative or undertakes to protect his own rights and interests.

Article 20: Educating, mobilizing, and helping citizens

1. Consuls must instill a spirit of patriotism in Vietnamese citizens and encourage them to return to the fatherland and contribute to building and defending the fatherland.

2. Consuls must propagandize the laws among Vietnamese citizens so that they obey the laws of the host country and of Vietnam and maintain friendly relations with the people of the host country.

3. Consuls must support the cultural and educational activities of Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens.

4. Consuls must encourage everyone to provide material support to the Vietnamese citizens in the consular zone when they encounter difficulties.

Article 21: Issuing passports and visas

1. Consuls can issue and renew passports and revise items written in passports. When necessary, they can declare a passport invalid and confiscate the passport of a Vietnamese citizen in the consular zone.

2. Consuls can issue entry, exit, and transit visas to Vietnamese citizens and foreign nationals. They can extend or void a visa or revise the items in a visa.

Article 22: Household registration

1. Consuls must register marriages between Vietnamese citizens and record births and deaths of Vietnamese citizens in accord with Vietnamese law. When a Vietnamese citizen marries a foreign national, the consul is to register the marriage only if the host country agrees.

If the laws of the host country require it, consuls must report the registrations discussed in Paragraph 1 of this article to the officials responsible in the host country.

2. Consuls must compile a household registration book and issue household registration papers to Vietnamese citizens in accord with Vietnamese law.

3. In cases in which they do not have jurisdiction, consuls must accept and turn over household registration petitions to the Vietnamese state organization with jurisdiction.

Article 23: Recognizing adoptions and appointing sponsors

1. Consuls have the right to recognize adoptions among Vietnamese citizens and record this in the household registration book.

2. Consuls have the right to recognize, appoint, and replace sponsors for Vietnamese citizens who are not yet of age, and they are responsible for monitoring the sponsors.

3. Recognizing adoptions and appointing sponsors must be done in accord with Vietnamese law.

Article 24: Serving as a notary

Consuls have the right to do the following notarial activities:

1. Notarize contracts, except contracts transferring ownership of real property in the host country, between Vietnamese citizens and foreign nationals if the contract is implemented in Vietnam or between Vietnamese citizens.

2. Notarize wills of Vietnamese citizens and, if requested, keep a copy of those wills.

3. Notarize authorization documents of Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens.
4. Notarize sections of documents and duplicates and photocopies of papers and documents.
5. Notarize signatures on documents.
6. Certify translations
7. Certify time periods for submitting documents.
8. Keep papers, documents, money, checks, and other valuables for Vietnamese citizens.

Consuls can also perform other notarial activities in accord with Vietnamese law.

#### Article 25: Principles of performing notarial work

1. Notarial activities must be performed in accord with the procedures stipulated by Vietnamese law.
2. Notarial activities must be performed at the consular organization using the words that the organization uses in its work.

When necessary, notarial activities can be performed outside the consular organization.

#### Article 26: Legalizing papers and documents

1. Consuls can notarize the signatures and seals on papers and documents prepared by agencies and organizations of the host country and certify that these papers and documents are in accord with the laws of the host country.

Consuls must not legitimate papers or documents whose contents are contrary to the basic principles of Vietnamese law.

Consuls can legitimate papers and documents prepared by Vietnamese agencies and organizations if those papers or documents are used in the host country.

2. Vietnamese state organizations can only examine the papers and documents legitimized by the consul unless Vietnamese laws or the international treaties signed by Vietnam stipulate otherwise.
3. The minister of foreign affairs must stipulate legitimization rules and regulations.

#### Article 27: Consular functions concerning inheritances

1. In a consular zone, if an inheritance is left by a Vietnamese citizen or if an inheritance would benefit the Vietnamese state, a juristic entity, or citizen, the consul must do everything possible to ensure that they receive those benefits.

Consuls must work with the state organizations concerned of the host country in order to solve problems related to inheritances.

2. If there is a Vietnamese juristic entity or citizen in Vietnam or a third country who has been left an inheritance, the consul must immediately notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of this.

Consuls can represent heirs as requested.

3. If a Vietnamese citizen dies in a consular zone and there is no heir to his property, the consul must turn over that property to the Vietnamese state organization with jurisdiction.

4. If part or all of the inheritance mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article is damaged or difficult to store or transport, the consul can sell it and turn over the money to the heir or to the Vietnamese state organization with jurisdiction.

#### Article 28: Accepting and turning over petitions and documents

Consuls are responsible for accepting petitions and related documents of Vietnamese juristic entities and citizens in the consular zone and submitting them to the Vietnamese state organizations with jurisdiction.

#### Article 29: Consular functions concerning citizenship

Consuls must accept petitions to gain, renounce, and regain Vietnamese citizenship and complaints concerning depriving people of their Vietnamese citizenship or voiding decisions on granting Vietnamese citizenship. Consuls must forward these petitions to the Vietnamese state organizations with jurisdiction in the country. When the matter has been decided, the consul must notify the parties concerned.

#### Article 30: Performing judicial functions

Consuls can perform the judicial functions of the Vietnamese state organizations with jurisdiction with respect to Vietnamese citizens in the consular zone if that does not violate the laws of the host country or the international treaties signed by Vietnam and the host country. The performance of such functions must be in accord with the stipulations of Vietnamese trial laws.

#### Article 31: Consular fees

Consuls must collect fees and the costs related to performing consular work in accord with the stipulations of the Council of Ministers.

### SECTION IV

#### Consular Functions With Respect to Ships, Aircraft, and Other Means of Communication and Transportation

##### Article 32: General functions

Consuls must monitor things and do everything necessary to ensure that Vietnamese means of communication and transportation in the consular zone enjoy all the rights granted to such means by the laws of the host

country, the treaties signed by Vietnam and the host country, and international practices.

**Article 33: Legal support**

1. Consuls must do everything necessary to restore the rights of ships flying the Vietnamese flag, hereafter referred to as ships, when their rights have been violated.
2. Consuls must help ship captains understand port regulations and local laws and practices and provide them with other information related to ship operations.
3. Consuls have the right to be present when state organizations of the host country conduct an inspection.

**Article 34: Responsible for visiting and inspecting ships**

Consuls are responsible for visiting ships in the consular zone, and they have the right to inspect the ship's papers.

**Article 35: Right to request report**

When necessary, consuls have the right to ask ship captains to come to the consular office and submit a report on the details and itinerary of the ship.

**Article 36: Issuing and notarizing papers and documents**

1. Consuls can issue "temporary permits to fly the national flag" to ships purchased or obtained abroad.
2. Consuls can notarize the papers and documents of ships and certify the ship manifests and financial documents of the ships. They can issue the necessary papers to enable ships to enter, dock at, and leave the port easily.

**Article 37: Rights regarding ships**

1. If a ship captain cannot carry out his tasks, the consul has the right to appoint a temporary replacement. This must be reported immediately to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the owner of the ship must be notified.
2. Consuls can certify and record in the ship's log the personnel changes that have taken place during the trip of the ship or while in port.
3. Consuls can resolve disputes between the ship's captain and other members of the ship's crew.

**Article 38: Consular functions when ships leave port**

1. In certain situations, consuls have the right to postpone ship departures or ask the ship to leave ahead of schedule. The reasons must be recorded in the ship's log. This must be reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ship's owner must be notified.
2. Consuls have the right to put Vietnamese citizens and consular baggage aboard ships. The ship's captain is responsible for consular baggage just like consular messengers.

**Article 39: Consular functions when ships encounter difficulties**

1. When a ship has an accident, the consul must immediately report this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and notify the ship's owner. At the same time, the consul must do everything possible to rescue the passengers and crew and save the ship and cargo. The consul must do everything possible to help them.

2. Consuls must acknowledge the submission of navigational protests. Based on a study of the circumstances of the incident, on the statements of the ship's captain and crew, and on the ship's log, the consul must certify the navigational protest.

**Article 40: Consular functions when ships are seized**

If a ship is seized and sailed into a consular zone, the consul must report this immediately to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ship's owner. At the same time, the consul must take the steps necessary to request the local authorities to arrest those responsible and protect the passengers, crew, ship, and cargo aboard the ship.

**Article 41: Consular functions when people become ill, are injured, or die**

1. When someone aboard a ship becomes ill or is injured, consuls must help them get to a hospital, monitor their treatment at the hospital, and do whatever they can to help them.
2. If a person dies, consuls must provide help in burying or cremating the person and in sending the body or remains back home, performing the necessary ceremonies.

**Article 42: Consular functions with respect to aircraft and other means of communication and transportation**

The stipulations from Article 32 to Article 41 of this law apply in the case of Vietnamese aircraft and other means of communication and transportation in the consular zones.

**SECTION V**

**Consular Functions With Respect to Quarantines and the Protection of Plants and Animals**

**Article 43: Quarantines**

If an epidemic breaks out in a consular zone, the consul must report this immediately to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, and the domestic organizations concerned. He must state the type of disease, the changes in the epidemic, and the measures being taken by local officials to fight the epidemic. The consul must notify Vietnamese entering the country that when they enter the country, they will be required to show their vaccination papers.

**Article 44: Protection of plants and animals**

In a consular zone, if diseases or insects that could harm crops or domestic animals appear, the consul must

report this to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Public Health, and the domestic organizations concerned and notify Vietnamese travelers that when they enter the country they will be required to show proof of quarantine with respect to the animals and animal products, live plants, fruits, and fresh vegetables that they are bringing with them.

## SECTION VI

### Final Article

#### Article 45:

This law goes into effect 1 January 1991.

Previous stipulations contrary to this law are null and void.

Hanoi, 13 November 1990 T/M State Council of the SRV

Chairman Signed: Vo Chi Cong

### Newspaper Reports on Bui Tin

#### Bui Tin Interviewed

912E0058A Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese  
Nov 90 pp 27, 28

[Interview with Colonel Bui Tin, the deputy editor in chief of NHAN DAN by P.Q.; date and place not given]

[Text] At 2130 hours (Vietnam time) on 28 November 1990, several million people listening to the Vietnamese-language program broadcast on the BBC radio heard "Proposals by a Citizen" read by one of their writers. They heard the entire text over their shortwave radios. That same hour, the Vietnamese-language program on the French RFI radio broadcast many excerpts from this 12-point statement. The writer of this is not an "overseas Vietnamese" but someone from "within the country." Furthermore, he is a high-level revolutionary cadre who has been a party member for 44 years and who served in the army for 37 years. His name is Bui Tin, the deputy editor-in-chief of NHAN DAN, the organ of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee.

He chose Paris, where he had been on business since the middle of September 1990 (he was attending a conference sponsored by L'HUMANITE and a conference on "Gen Leclerc and Indochina, 1945-1947"), as the place from which to disclose his proposals to "all the people, the entire party, and international opinion." But Bui Tin never intended to become a "political refugee" as France-Info radio announced—they later had to apologize and issue an official retraction. He confirmed that he intends to return to Vietnam when his health permits:

"Even though my proposals have not been not approved by the leadership organizations and even though I know that I will not be treated as usual on my return and that

I might even be punished, I will return to Vietnam and face the consequences of my acts. I am not afraid of being punished by anyone. The only thing I am afraid of is the criticism and hatred of the people. And I don't want to be punished by my own conscience. I am much more afraid of those things."

When asked why he had written these proposals, Col Bui Tin said:

"The situation in Vietnam is very worrisome. Daily life there is very difficult. Prices continue to rise, and the inflation rate is again high. Honest people cannot live normally.

"Frankly, the renovation line and the major policies, such as the economic elements, allow people to debate things and criticize things in the press. This is very new. But the results are still poor, and things have been carried out only half-way. Preparations for the Seventh Congress are being made urgently, but in my view, things are still being done the old way. The party's draft program and the social and economic strategy to the year 2000 are being perfected. In the present crisis, I don't think that anything should be said about these major problems, because it will take time to study the contents. The congress should put forth an urgent action program to pull the country out of this long crisis. If we continue to do things in the old way and in accord with the old plans, the situation will become even worse, life will become even more difficult, the country will remain isolated, the people will suffer even more, and people will lose their confidence. When your house is on fire, you can't sit about discussing building a villa. The people have had to wait and endure things for too long already."

The day before he allowed the Western media (AFP, the BBC, and the RFI) to disseminate his statement, on the afternoon of 27 November 1990, Bui Tin sent a copy of his proposals to Pham Binh, the Vietnamese ambassador to France and asked the ambassador to cable it to Vietnam.

However, in the minds of many Vietnamese leaders, disclosing such proposals publicly and disclosing them abroad are two great "taboos." Bui Tin realized that he was "taking a risk." Why would a veteran party member over 60 years old who is in a position to submit his ideas directly to the highest leaders in the CPV and country choose this path? That is the question that is on the minds of everyone. On behalf of our readers, we asked Bui Tin that very question. He said:

"I really wanted to make my proposals using the normal path, that is, within the party. But I was afraid that in the present atmosphere, ideas that are contrary to the points already drafted might be kept within my party organization even if the party chapter approved sending them on. Second, in August 1986, I sent a personal proposal to the then general secretary, Truong Chinh. Truong Chinh felt that I had a number of good ideas, but then they were put aside and not examined further.

"I have always acted in a disciplined way. Even though I was discouraged, I never disclosed anything about those proposals. At my organization (NHAN DAN), only two people—one who did the typing for me and one in my party chapter who held the documents for me—knew about this.

"From that experience I realized that I would have to take a roundabout path, a more difficult path, in order to inform people in Vietnam and party members about these proposals, have a real debate, formulate an appropriate and effective resolution, and establish a basis for ending the present crisis."

Using a "roundabout" path, did he think that anyone in Vietnam would listen to the heartfelt things expressed in the 12 points? We asked Bui Tin if he was afraid that his proposals would be brushed aside. He said:

"Frankly, I am afraid, very afraid. But along with being afraid, I am also hopeful. I was one person who responded very quickly to the appeal of our leaders to open a public forum on the draft documents using the mass means of information. I hope that my proposals will be accepted, even if only in part.

"In the past, I had a bad failing. I was not used to opposing things that had been decided. Later on, after the leadership made many consecutive mistakes, I realized that I had to have a proper spirit of criticism. Problems must be considered from many angles. That is a scientific attitude. The path to the truth is never straight. Sometimes you are wrong. Sometimes the majority is correct and the minority is wrong. But sometimes the minority is correct.

"The problem is to soon discover the mistakes so that they can be corrected and so that their bad effects can be limited. If the great mistakes in land reform in 1953 and 1954 had been discovered sooner, much suffering could have been avoided. At that time, some people realized that that was a mistake, but they didn't dare say anything. After the south was liberated, agricultural reform was rushed and carried on in a formal manner. Those who voiced a contrary opinion were accused of hindering the revolution.

"I think that the role of researchers and those assisting the leaders is very important. There are a number of knowledgeable and well-educated people who don't dare give their views. They are afraid of being branded as bad. They are afraid that that would affect their positions. Excellent advisors with a sense of justice must do what they can to stop what is wrong and block hurried and inappropriate policies. In the past, there were great kings who listened to courtiers who advised against things that were wrong. There are two sides to this. Advisors must be excellent and brave. On the other hand, leaders must be modest. They must know how to listen and accept correct advice. They must put aside their pride in order to do what is right.

"Frankly, many of the advisors to the leaders are weak people. They are just submissive and obedient civil servants. They agree with higher echelons about everything and say things that will please higher echelons. They aren't concerned if what they do leads to bad results.

"Some leaders like flattery. They like to receive good reports and praise. They transform their advisors into civil servants who are weak intellectually and who will agree with their views.

"This is why I am concerned about the fate of my proposals. But I also have hope, because the country has begun to make renovations, the concept of democracy has begun to grow, and the people are concerned about their country and are daring to speak their minds. In particular, I hope that my proposals will reach the people and that the people will agree with me. That would make me happy. I hope that the leaders will realize that this is the request of the people and that they cannot ignore this.

"Yes, I am worried. I am both anxious and hopeful."

We have shown the feelings of Bui Tin separately. To provide readers with sufficient information, in this issue, DOAN KET has printed the entire text of his proposal and portions of the interview with him. In our next issue, we will print the rest of the interview and some of the initial reactions within the country (among both the people and the leaders) and abroad (the Vietnamese community and international opinion).

#### **Bui Tin, Pen Name: Thanh Tin**

Born in 1927 in Hanoi. Son of Bui Bang Doan. Joined the Vietnam People's Army in September 1945 (discharged in 1982 with the rank of colonel). Joined the CPV in March 1946.

During the first resistance, he fought in Trung Bo and Tonkin (Dien Bien Phu), serving as a cadre at the company, battalion, and regimental levels. In 1975 he participated in the Ho Chi Minh operation. (On 30 April, as the highest ranking officer of the first tank unit to enter the grounds of the Independence Palace, Col Bui Tin accepted the surrender of the Duong Van Minh regime.)

From 1972-1981, he served as deputy editor-in-chief of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN. In 1973, he also served as a spokesman for the DRV [Democratic Republic of Vietnam] delegation to the Quadripartite Military Commission.

Since 1982, he has been on the editorial board of NHAN DAN. He became the deputy editor-in-chief of NHAN DAN in 1986. He is editor-in-chief for the weekly NHAN DAN CHU NHAT.

**Bui Tin Assesses Situation in Vietnam***912E0058B Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese  
Nov 90 pp 29, 30*

[Article by Thanh Tin (pen name of Bui Tin)]: "Proposals by a Citizen"

[Text] I have been a member of the communist party since March 1946. I was sent to France to work. Because of poor health, I have asked to remain here for a time to undergo treatment.

The entire party is making urgent preparations for the Seventh Congress. I have read the party's draft program and the economic and social strategy to the year 2000.

I wrote these proposals after a period of study and thought. I hope that people throughout the country will study these proposals and that they will be given attention at party meetings at all levels.

1. Both the draft program and strategy have been prepared quite meticulously and rewritten many times.

The country is still in an all-round crisis. Recently, many things have grown even worse, with the result that the lives of the people are even more difficult.

Because of this, I feel that the debate on and perfection of the two documents mentioned above should be postponed. Efforts should be concentrated above all on the immediate (2-5 years) tasks in order to bring the country out of the present crisis and bring about stability so that we can enter a period of development. Only after that is done should we or can we consider other long-term matters.

2. In the face of today's worsening crisis, the party is facing a great challenge. It must show its leadership capabilities. It must show that it is courageous and that it is alert to the truth. It must consider many capabilities in order to decide on the best plan, take effective steps to resolve the crisis, and restore the confidence of the people. Preparing for the Seventh Congress and holding the Seventh Congress will test the leadership capabilities of the party. Every party member must use his spirit of responsibility and knowledge to find solutions for the country. Every proposal must be given adequate attention and examined carefully in order to make choices. In my view, the resolutions of the congress must be effective decisions in order to bring the country out of this long crisis.

3. Renovation has achieved a number of results during the past 4 years, but these results are not enough. We are still far from satisfying the requirements of the situation. Even more resolute and stronger renovations must be made if we are to end the crisis.

4. The two strategic tasks of the past period were building socialism and defending our socialist fatherland. Now, the situation has changed. The all-inclusive

strategic task should be to rebuild and develop the country in all respects following the war.

Today, the main target should be to ensure that the laboring people have jobs and an adequate income. They must enjoy freedom in order and law. There must be respect for human dignity, social justice, and solidarity. Efforts must be concentrated on rebuilding the country after the war for the prosperity and happiness of the country and each person.

5. The motive forces for implementing the strategic task mentioned above are the patriotism of all the people, a spirit of cooperation on the part of all the people here and Vietnamese living abroad, and the energy and intelligence of all generations and of both men and women of every nationality and religion in order to overcome the immediate difficulties, resolutely overcome poverty and backwardness, and bring the country into a period of development.

In the past, every Vietnamese endured great hardships to win freedom and independence. Now, they are enduring hardships in the face of poverty and backwardness—out of 162 countries in the world, Vietnam ranks 150th with respect to per capita gross product—in a world that is developing rapidly. They must use their energy and intelligence in coordination with the strengths of the nation and the favorable conditions in the world to find a way to defeat poverty and backwardness and develop the country in all respects.

6. In the past, we chose the path of socialist construction given the specific conditions of the world situation. That was easy to understand and necessary. Socialism, which exists in many countries and which we have begun to build in our country, has scored a number of achievements and generated strength in the wars to liberate and defend the fatherland. On the other hand, socialism as it exists in a number of countries and in our country has exposed many shortcomings, weaknesses, and errors that have made it impossible for the laws of socialism to manifest an effect. These countries now face a very serious crisis in terms of both theory and practice. The targets, contents, laws, measures, and steps of socialism must be re-studied. We cannot continue doing things the way we have been, and it will take time and careful research to figure out what to do.

Because of this, condemning socialism and rejecting it completely is wrong, just as continuing to carry on socialism as in the past, even with renovation, is too hurried and damaging.

7. We have committed subjective mistakes and been guilty of voluntarism and impatience. As a result, we have encountered obstacles. Wanting to go fast, we slowed ourselves down and found ourselves in a crisis. We must remain calm and be alert. Just as in daily life, there are times when it is necessary to retreat or take a roundabout path in order to find the shortest route to the goal. Retreating when necessary in order to advance is wise. This is not something to be ashamed of.

With this spirit, today, we should build a real democracy of a popular nature with socialist directions (or choices). (The theme must be to continue searching and doing studies.) The name of the country should be changed back to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The party's name should be changed back to the Vietnam Lao Dong Party [Vietnam Workers Party]. This is not a rejection of socialism but a rational and correct determination based on reality. We should not set distant targets at a time when it will take a fairly long time just to hit the near targets. We are not abandoning the ideals of socialism. At the same time, we realize that socialism, with high production, social fairness, and social welfare for every citizen in our country, will require a rather long time to prepare the conditions.

8. Steps must be taken to bring about complete solidarity and national reconciliation. Before the south was liberated, we put forth a policy for national reconciliation and concord. But this wonderful policy was never fully implemented. There have been rigid, long-term, and unnecessary measures. Vietnamese living here—both on this side and on the other side—and those living abroad (2 million people) are still divided to some extent. People do not yet feel at peace, many people have left the country, and there is still opposition and resentment stemming from our history. There must be a new way of viewing things: kindness, magnanimity, leniency, sympathy, and mutual respect. Prejudices against the victors and losers in the war must be eliminated. All Vietnamese, regardless of their past, must view each other as brothers and love each other. The old hatreds must be extinguished. We must look forward in order to unite the nation, overcome the difficulties, and build a prosperous fatherland for the people of today and for future generations.

9. As for our diplomatic line, Vietnam has implemented a policy of peace and friendship, nonalignment, and cooperation with all countries. It is carrying out its obligations and rights as a member of the United Nations. It advocates real reconciliation with countries that once fought Vietnam, that is, Japan, France, the United States, and China. Vietnam is resolved to open a new page in its relations with these countries. It has a close relationship with Laos and Cambodia and respects the sovereignty of the Cambodian people and their right to determine their own affairs free of all outside interference. Vietnam is continuing to improve relations with countries in Southeast Asia. It supports peaceful and progressive movements and the struggles aimed at eliminating colonialism and genocidal systems.

10. In implementing the above themes, what will we gain and what will we lose?

We stand to gain a lot and will gain things of great importance. This includes all-people solidarity. Also, the minds of the people will be at ease, and their confidence will be restored. We will gain many more friends and reduce opposing influences. We will obtain the help, support, and cooperation of the world, create conditions

to virtually end the various crises, bring the country into a period of development, and improve Vietnam's international position.

What we will lose is a subjective way of looking at things, remoteness from reality, impatience, and voluntarism. We will lose bureaucratic centralism, dogmatism, and wonderful but false illusions.

Our greatest gain will be the hearts of the workers, peasants, intellectuals, artists and writers, older people and youths, and soldiers who have made sacrifices for independence and unity, who want national solidarity, and who have made contributions to advancing in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The view of using the people as the root has been clearly manifested.

11. To implement these new major policies requires new and effective work methods. After the Party Congress, if these proposals are basically approved, a special political conference should be convened (a precedent for this was set in 1964) consisting of broad elements in a spirit of national solidarity. The conference should be attended by representatives of the workers, peasants, intellectuals, artists and writers, minority groups, the various religions, and Vietnamese living and working abroad in order to discuss and approve a new action program. The conference should have a spirit of broad democracy, use the people as the root, manifest national unity and leniency and magnanimity regarding the serious mistakes that have been made, look to the future, and be imbued with traditional patriotism and kindness.

A new National Assembly must be elected based on a spirit of democracy. The voters must elect capable representatives who have a sense of justice and who come from all circles, sectors, and localities.

The national reconstruction government that will be formed following that will consist of incorruptible and truly talented people.

Reorganizing and elevating the Vietnam Fatherland Front in order to organize the front at each echelon is a matter of uniting all circles in order to carry on national reconstruction. The trade unions and Youth Union has an important role in the front. The average age of the cadres in the front must be lowered so that the front can satisfy the requirements of the situation.

As for military and security affairs, while maintaining national independence and social safety, there must be a notable reduction in the size of our military and security forces. That is, our forces must be reduced to the level of the world average. (These are 0.5 percent of the total population for the military and 0.1 percent for the security forces. At present, the percentages are 2 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.) There must be a notable reduction in the size of the defense budget. We must implement all-people's national defense and security.

On the international front, the delegations of the people and of the new government must be strengthened in



order to normalize relations with other countries, expand friendly and cooperative relations on many fronts, bring the country out of its long period of isolation, and achieve real integration with the international community. Vietnam should, in coordination with UN organizations, organize an international conference in Hanoi with the participation of the UN secretary general, representatives of the Asian and Pacific Economic and Social Development Committee, ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], UNICEF, UNEXCO [expansion unknown], UNDP [expansion unknown], FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization], and other UN organizations, representatives of Southeast Asian organizations, the Common Market, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, nongovernmental cultural, religious, and charitable organizations, and international business circles interested in rebuilding Vietnam. At the conference, reports should be given on the new policies and the losses suffered during the war. The delegates should discuss coordinating things to provide help and aid to Vietnam and cooperate with Vietnam on all fronts: investing to exploit our resources; developing industry, agriculture, communications and transportation, banking, credit, and culture and education; carrying on population and environmental protection activities and public health work; and training people on the spot and abroad in order to obtain the necessary new knowledge.

12. Everyone in the nation is concerned about the country's present situation. The economy is in dire straits, inflation is a problem again, prices are increasing, and the lives of the laborers, cadres, and honest civil servants are becoming more and more difficult. Social evils are spreading. There is bureaucratic centralism, irresponsibility, selfish individualism, corruption, smuggling, special rights and privileges, and abuse of powers. The good morals and customs, spiritual values, and innate morals of the people are being seriously eroded. Our youths, the future of our country, lack direction. The policies and measures have produced few results.

The above proposals have only one motive and that is to put forth a fundamental and urgent action program that will bring the country out of its long crisis, bring stability and growth to our beloved country, restore the confidence of the people, and assemble all of the people of the nation for the great cause.

I have no personal ambitions at all and am not seeking any position in the party or the state apparatus. My only desire is to be an ordinary reporter who can use his understanding and pen to serve our beloved people.

#### **Institute Contributes Ideas to Draft Documents**

912E0057A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
10 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Le Huyen Thong and Pham Van Khanh]

[Text] The Philosophy Institute, which is subordinate to the Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences, is one of the units that

has contributed many ideas in the process of formulating the party's program. A number of the institute's proposals have been accepted by the Program Subcommittee. Recently, immediately after the Central Committee publicly disclosed the Draft Program, the party chapter of the Philosophy Institute held an expanded conference (a number of intellectuals who are not party members were invited to attend in order to discuss and contribute ideas to the party's documents with a constructive concept and lofty spirit of responsibility).

More than 50 speakers unanimously agreed that in the present situation, the party must have a program and make the transition to socialism in our country. Some said that this program should have been implemented sooner but that implementing it late is better than not implementing it at all.

One problem mentioned by many people is that the party must continue to make renovations and increase intellectual capabilities in line with the times in order to lead the people in resolutely implementing the ideals chosen by President Ho, that is, the path to socialism.

#### **What should the name of the program be and what mistakes has the party made?**

The program's name was debated vigorously. Professor Le Si Thang, Nguyen Trong Chuan, the acting director of the institute, Pham Thi Ngoc Tram, Dang Huu Toan, Nguyen Ngoc Ha, Nguyen Van Huyen, and Dao Thi The Phiet said that the program's name must correctly reflect the nature of his historical stage, which is primarily a transitional period. Many people disagreed with the draft name, citing three reasons for opposing this name: A. The transitional period is not socialism. B. Problems that have not been carefully studied or about which there is still much debate should not be included in the program. C. The themes of the draft program are mainly themes of the transitional period. Because of this, Professor Le Si Thang suggested that the program be called "Program on the Transition to Socialism," and many others agreed with his suggestion.

However, a number of other people such as Le Huy Thuc and Pham Van Duc agreed with the draft and suggested that the program be called the "Program on Building Socialism in the Transitional Period," because this name mentions socialism and makes it clear that this stage is just a transitional stage.

Discussing the first chapter, people expressed two different views when analyzing the party's mistakes. One group agreed with the draft that our party has made mistakes in providing strategic guidance and determining specific lines in a number of important spheres. Some said that if the specific lines, that is, the economic lines, are wrong, it makes it difficult to implement the general lines. Nguyen Van Huyen, MA, stressed that even though the general lines are correct, the serious errors that have been committed over a long period have led to other mistakes with the nature of a line. The

second group suggested supplementing things and observed that in the socialist revolution, the party has made mistakes even with respect to the general lines. A number of people emphasized that these mistakes have occurred because of failing to start from the real situation in Vietnam. And there has been voluntarism and dogmatism. Nguyen Van Thuc spent much time criticizing the mistakes made concerning the general lines. But when he was asked what mistakes the party has made concerning the general lines, his observations were unclear. As a result, many others disagreed with him.

Many people agreed with the draft program in its evaluation of the successes and lessons of the Vietnamese revolution. A number disagreed and suggested removing the sentence: "Only by following the socialist path can we achieve real national independence." In the second lesson, a number of people suggested adding that the revolution is of the people, by the people, and for the happiness of the people. The program should not use the words "legitimate aspirations of the people." What is "legitimate." Such words are very abstract.

#### **Is the transition to socialism really necessary?**

The second chapter discussed the transition to socialism in our country. Many people contributed ideas on this. Le Si Thang suggested adding that the basic theme of the age is the transition from capitalism to communism on a worldwide scale (instead of socialism as written in the draft). He cited three reasons for this. First, speaking about the transition from capitalism to communism is in accord with the ideas of Marx on economic and social forms. According to Marx, socialism is the lowest stage of communist economic and social forms. Second, talking about the transition to communism does not include just one type of transition but many different paths and capabilities, including the developed capitalist countries. Third, this concept is in accord with the party's 1930 program.

A number of others said that the basic themes of the age as mentioned in the draft are correct. The important question is how to select the transitional path and how to implement things.

Is the transition to socialism in our country really necessary? Most of those attending the conference agreed with the draft and affirmed that with respect to Vietnam, the socialist revolutionary ideal chosen by President Ho is the right path and that regardless of the difficulties, we must implement this ideal. However, there were questions about the forms, steps, and transitional stage in our country. Pham Thi Ngoc Tram, MA, said that the party needs to study the objective conditions, factors of the age, and national factors with a dialectical and historical viewpoint in order to shorten the transitional period. Associate Professor Nguyen Tai Thu said that today, the old forms of socialism in Eastern Europe are crumbling. Thus, what is socialism in our country like? He said that if a socialist society is constructed correctly as called for in the draft, the transition to socialism in Vietnam is

clearly essential. Because these problems represent the aspirations of all the people and the historical mission of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam].

Dao Thi The Phiet disagreed with those who said that the transition to socialism in Vietnam is in accord with the law. She said that if Lenin's theory on the transition to socialism in the underdeveloped countries is still applicable today, we lack the conditions of the socialist countries. Because of this, she thinks that the contents of the draft are restrictive and subjective.

#### **What are the basic conflicts in our society?**

Many people disagreed that the basic conflicts of our society in the transitional period have been included in the draft. Nguyen Trong Chuan, MA, said that determining the basic conflicts of our society in the transitional period is not easy, because the economic and social situation in Vietnam is undergoing complex changes. This requires that things be examined carefully based on handling the relationship between economics and politics correctly. Nguyen Linh Khieu said that the basic conflict of our society today is the conflict between the two paths as clearly manifested in the two development tendencies in a multi-faceted economy: capitalism and socialism. In reality, capitalism is growing spontaneously. At the same time, the socialist economy is encountering many difficulties. Nguyen Ngoc Ha stressed the conflict between the growing socialization of the production forces and the ownerless nature of the public ownership system. Concerning these problems, the conference chairman concluded that if the conflicts in our society have not been determined accurately or if there is still much disagreement, this should not be included in the program.

When discussing the economic and social problems, those attending the conference agreed with the viewpoint of the draft program that to expand the multi-faceted commodity economy, labor strength must be regarded as a special commodity and the national economy must play a guiding role. A number of people said that the targets of the initial stage, particularly the target of "at least doubling the per capita income," are not in accord with Vietnam's real conditions. In this section, the draft contains many points of a very general nature. Some people asked: "How can the minimum needs of the people be satisfied?" The word "minimum" is very abstract and does not clarify the responsibility of the party with respect to the lives of the people. Hoang Manh Binh stressed that the draft program and the draft economic strategy conflict with each other on a number of points, particularly concerning the targets of economic development. Dao Thi The Phiet suggested that those sections on social policy, particularly the human strategy, be rewritten.

Many people observed that the draft program has not correctly evaluated the role of the intellectuals, particularly in the scientific and technical age and in an age in which there has been an information explosion. Many people

suggested rewriting Section 4 of Chapter 3. In this, science must be evaluated more correctly, and it must be recognized that intellectuals are playing a decisive role in the scientific and technical revolution and in technological concessions and not technological "transfers." In view of this, financial policies must be implemented and material and spiritual conditions must be created to enable the intellectuals to contribute to building socialism. Some people said that the program should mention that the role of the social sciences is to clarify the problems concerning socialism and to contribute directly in formulating economic and social development lines, strategies, and policies. Because of this, intellectuals are not a "motive force" but a developmental strength of the country.

As for chapters five and six, a number of people said that the party must build a political system to hit the target of achieving national solidarity, mobilizing Vietnamese people everywhere, and freeing every potential to contribute to building the country. The political system must reflect the infrastructure within the structure of a multi-faceted economy. Above all, laws must be promulgated to systematize the renovation of the leadership themes and formulas of the party with respect to the state.

As for reorganizing the party, some people said that a mechanism must be built to block and expel the corrupt elements in the party and state apparatus.

As for the presentation of the program, everyone agreed with presenting it as a draft. But many people suggested giving more attention to its style and using fewer abstract words and hackneyed expressions. For example, why does it still use the phrase "manifest democracy" instead of being more direct and saying "implement democracy?" A number of people said that chapters five and six need to be rewritten to make them more clear and concise.

## MILITARY

### Problems in Carrying Out Military Service Law

912E0075D Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Article by Xuan Minh: "Problems in Implementing the Military Service Law and Officers Law of the VPA"]

[Text] The Military Service Law and the VPA [Vietnam People's Army] Officers Law were approved by the Seventh National Assembly on 30 December 1981.

During more than 8 years of implementation the laws have contributed importantly to building the army and meeting the requirements of defending the fatherland and fulfilling our international duty. Thanks to their implementation, the requirements of the quantitative and qualitative development of officers in our army have

been fulfilled. At the same time, training and supplementation to build up large numbers of reserve officers have been promoted and improved.

However, in recent years, because there have been many changes in the situation and missions of the army, because the socio-economic situation has strongly affected the armed forces, and because legitimate demands for social justice have become increasingly urgent, there are many points of the laws which are no longer appropriate to actual life and it is often difficult or impossible to implement the laws, so they must be amended and supplemented. Only thereby can the Military Service Law and the Officers Law manifest their legal nature and effectiveness, and only then can the laws truly be made part of social life.

In the course of conferences and actual surveys of the situation of the implementation of the Military Service Law and Officers Law in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Military Region 3, Military Region 7, and Military Region 9, and after obtaining the opinions of the youths, women, trade unions, war invalids-society, and other sectors, everyone agreed that there are still problems in implementing the laws, so they must be promptly amended and supplemented. That is the desire of all the people, for the Military Service Law and Officers Law are relevant to everyone and all families.

As regards the Military Service Law, the main problem is that it has not yet fully manifested social justice, specific concern for the material well-being and morale of the army, and preferential treatment in accord with the policy of giving priority to the army's rear area. Specifically, why, at present, while every year tens of thousands of youths set out to enlist to fulfill their military obligation in arduous and difficult places in order to build and defend the fatherland, and many people have given their lives for their country, are there still very many youths who are not in the exempted categories but do not fulfill their military obligations? Of course, there are many subjective and objective reasons for that, but clearly it is not rational and reasonable. Therefore, with regard to social justice, the laws must determine clearly how people in the military obligation category who do not have to serve in the army must contribute. That contribution is both an obligation to the fatherland and a matter of social justice and is applicable to everyone.

Revolving around the matter of social justice for people fulfilling their military obligations, in recent years the peacetime draft quota has been very low, only one-tenth of the wartime quota, but the number of people exempted from military duty in accordance with the law has been too restricted. There must be a rebalancing between needs and the expansion of the exempted categories in order to show the concern of the Party and the state toward families which have made many contributions to the nation and the revolution, and families whose sons are fulfilling their military obligations. That is also necessary in order to, in part, ensure social justice. Those categories are the children of war dead (the

present law only exempts the eldest sons of war dead families), the children of Class-1 and Class-2 disabled veterans and Class-1 ill soldiers, and people with blood siblings who are serving on active duty in accordance with the military obligation system.

The material lives and morale of the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men on active duty are major and urgent problems at present. Most of the opinions of the localities and the central sectors expressed when we visited and surveyed life in the army units were very sympathetic of the troops' difficult and deprived circumstances. Most of the army units are stationed in jungle and mountain areas, remote areas, at strategic positions along the border or on islands with severe weather, etc., but the food, housing, clothing, and living standards are too low, usually only one-third of the average needs, so many units must eat bad rice and wear poor clothing, see a film only once every few months, and even lack money to buy daily necessities. With the present rate of price increases, the troops' lives are becoming increasingly more difficult. Meanwhile, the current Military Service Law only makes the general stipulation that the material and morale lives of noncommissioned officers and enlisted men are ensured. Therefore, should there not be a document below the level of a law that clearly states the specific norms and rations, in order to have a basis for ensuring the troops material lives and morale?

Problems in the implementation of the VPA Officers Law have also been exposed, especially with regard to ranks, functions, active-duty time, reserve-duty time, salaries, insurance, etc. The current Officers Law recognizes three field-grade levels: Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. At the Colonel there are still too many functions, six or seven of which affect coordinated combat command. With regard to salaries at the rank of Colonel, two salary steps must be used. If the grade of Senior Colonel were added, as in the past, the arrangement of functions would be spread out and would not be entirely concentrated in the rank of Colonel, the benefits system would be less egalitarian, cadres would be encouraged to advance, and the top-down command relationship would be explicit and tight. As regards the salaries and allowances of army officers during the recent period, they have not manifested a social policy appropriate to the nature and missions of the army. In general, the basic salary levels of the army do not clearly manifest priority and preferential treatment for the officers—the hard-core forces of the army—who day and night directly fulfill the mission of defending the fatherland. Furthermore, officers' salaries are still "egalitarian": among officers of the same rank, those who fulfill arduous and difficult missions receive the same salary as those who do ordinary work. That is extremely irrational.

Of course, setting salaries for army officers cannot be separated from the economic circumstances of our country, which is still beset with many difficulties, but we should not for that reason fail to draft an appropriate policy toward officers' salaries to manifest the priority and preferential treatment of the Party, the state, and the

people toward the army, and that is also clearly manifested in the principle of paying officers salaries for special labor.

With regard to officers' salaries and allowances, I recommend that the law state explicitly that officers will receive salaries and allowances stipulated by the Council of Ministers. The officers' salary schedule will be stipulated separately and be based on officers' grades, ranks, and functions, in accord with the army's nature and missions. Seniority allowances will be calculated on the basis of time served in the army. The insurance system must also be stated explicitly. Officers who reach the maximum age for active-duty service but have not yet reached retirement age must receive priority in acceptance for study in schools or for employment in state organs or social organizations. In the event that employment cannot be provided, officers who have served continually for 20 years will receive initial and monthly insurance supplements stipulated by the Council of Ministers.

Resolving the problems of the current Military Service Law and Officers Law is an urgent requirement of life, in order to improve the legal effectiveness of the laws and contribute to improving the quality and strength of the army in the enterprise of defending the fatherland and the socialist regime. Only thereby can the laws be implemented truly well in social life. That will also manifest the concern of the Party, the state, and the people for the VPA, an army of the people, by the people, and for the people, so that our army can always be a loyal and reliable force of the Party and the people.

#### **Military Court Sentences in Arms Trade Case**

912E0075C Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 9 Dec 90 p 4

[Article by Thuan Thang: "Military Court of Military Region 4 Tries Pham Doan Luan and Criminal Accomplices for 'Appropriating and Illegally Buying and Selling Weapons and Military Equipment'"]

[Text] The military court of Military Region 4 held a court session to try Pham Doan Luan and accomplices for "appropriating and illegally buying and selling weapons and military equipment."

Second Lieutenant Pham Doan Luan, a quartermaster aide at the military school of the Nghe Tinh military command, while serving as duty officer removed roofing tiles and entered the weapons depot at 1930 on 26 May 1990, and stole 11 K54 weapons, four AK weapons, and six CKC weapons. Luan, along with Nguyen Van Cuong (from Nghi Him village, Nghi Loc district) and the couple Tran Thi Hop and Le Khac Hiep (from Nghi Kim village, Nghi Loc district, Nghe Tinh province) sold them to Nguyen Van Hue (a guard at the Ben Thuy-Vinh Marine Products Corporation) and Tran Van Minh (of Tho Son village, Huong Son district, Nghe Tinh province). The weapons were taken to Pho Lu (Bao Thang district, Hoang Lien Son province) and were sold to Thoa, a bad element, for spending money. The

acts of the defendants directly violated the weapons and equipment of the armed forces—property of special value. Many people participated in the trail, most of them active-duty personnel, demobilized troops, or degenerate youths, who appropriated a large quantity at the reserve depot and sold them in a complicated area. Although 21 weapons were recovered, inestimable consequences would have occurred if those weapons had fallen into the hands of the enemy. The criminal acts of Luan and his accomplices were very dangerous and they had formed a network to sell weapons to Thao and Diu, bad elements outside society. On the basis of Part 3, Article 95 of the Criminal Code regarding the crime of “appropriating and illegally buying and selling weapons and military equipment, the military court of Military Region 4 sentenced Pham Doan Luan to 20 years in prison and 2 years probation, Tran Thi Hop to 7 years in prison and 1 year probation, and Le Khac Hiep to 3 years in prison (suspended), 3 to 4 years probation, and 1 year supervision.

### **Cadres of Division 8 Sentenced for Black Marketing**

912E0075B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 7 Dec 90 p 4

[Article by Ha Kim Duc: “Command Cadres of Division 8 and Others Implicated in Black Marketing Receive Suspended Sentences of 1 to 3.5 Years”]

[Text] During a period of 3 days—26, 27, and 28 November—in the municipality of Can Tho, Hau Giang Province, a high-level military court held a court of first instance and court of highest instance trial of a major black marketing case involving the command cadres of Division 8 of Military Region 9, in collusion with managing cadres of the My Tho Combined Production-Services-Culture Enterprise and the Tien Giang Essential and Vegetable Oil Production Enterprise.

The nine defendants who were brought out for open questioning included four command cadres of Division 8: Colonel Do Thanh Xuan, the division commander; Colonel Le Van Binh (alias Bay Viet), the deputy division commander for political affairs and secretary of the division party committee; Colonel Tran Hong, deputy division commander for rear services; and Lieutenant Colonel Phan Van Tan, deputy division commander and chief of staff. Also tried were two employees of the My Tho Combined Production-Services-Culture Enterprise—Ngo Vien Thu, deputy director and Vo Thanh Hung, a planner—a cadre of the Tien Giang Essential and Vegetable Oil Production Enterprise—Trinh Van Xuong—and a number of accomplices.

In 1989, ignoring a Ministry of National Defense directive prohibiting the army units from doing business, including opening canteens outside the camp perimeters, the command cadres of Division 8 on their own volition allied with production units outside the army to organize illegal business in a calculated and directed manner. Even worse, the cadres Xuan (division commander), Binh, Tan, and Hong included those illegal deeds in a

resolution of the division party committee, which was approved by the unit's entire military administration conference. Within only a few weeks the Division 8 cadres mobilized capital amounting to 5.2 kilograms of gold and the My Tho Combined Production-Services-Cultural Enterprise contributed tens of kilograms of gold. Furthermore, the two sides contributed tens of millions of dong in cash as circulating capital, to create a profit of about 30 million dong. In order to achieve that aim, they used a number of schemes, such as not reporting to the military region and allowing Nguyen Van Doi, a civilian, to wear a “first lieutenant's” uniform and appointing him the division's chief accountant to sign contracts to form business partnerships.

By means of rather sophisticated schemes, the defendants raised 308.64 taels of gold and illegally imported a rather large quantity of luxury goods—6,004 cases of Heineken beer—into Tien Giang, evaded taxes, and earned illegal profits of tens of millions of dong.

On the basis of the Criminal Code and the counts of indictment of the defendants, the high-level military court imposed the following sentences:

Do Thanh Xuan: 3.5 years in prison (suspended) and 48 months probation.

Le Van Binh and Ngo Vien Thu received the same sentence: 3 years in prison (suspended) and 48 months probation.

Pham Van Tan and Tran Hong Chung received the same sentence: 30 months in prison (suspended) and 36 months probation.

Trinh Van Xuong: 24 months in prison (suspended) and 36 months probation.

Vo Thanh Hung: 18 months in prison (suspended) and 24 months probation.

Nguyen Van Doi: 18 months in prison (suspended) and 24 months probation.

Nguyen Quoc Viet: 12 months in prison (suspended) and 24 months probation.

The court also decided to confiscate and place in the public treasury 66 Honda coupes and 2 million dong received by the protection police office of the An Giang Public Security Service as commissions for the vehicles that were purchased by the defendants, and 20,231 taels of gold and 700,000 dong in the possession of Nguyen Van Doi, who had not yet paid them to the division.

### Article Assesses Recruitment Problems

912E0075A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN  
in Vietnamese 4 Dec 90 p 2

[Article by Pham Minh: "The Quality of Enlisted Youths Can Be Ensured Only With the Concern of the Entire Society"]

[Text] With the requirement of improving all-round quality, especially strengthening the will and political ability of the army at present, the quality of enlisted youths is the most important factor. But in fact, during the past several years the quality of enlisted youths in nearly all localities has tended to decline with regard to all standards: health, education, and political quality. That actual situation has created many difficulties for the units when achieving the requirements of improving the quality of training, creating a conventional status, and building comprehensively strong units, according to the five objectives set by the Ministry of National Defense.

Because of the decline of the quality of enlisted youths, when receiving troops the units have coordinated closely with the local military commands at all levels in drafting youths, but because the localities' awareness is still lacking and they still make many excuses, such as not observing fairness or the policies, the enlisted youths are not yet the most outstanding youths and some of them are even deficient. During the past several years we have surveyed the quality of enlisted youths in a number of units training new recruits and have noted that a rather high percentage—in some places as many as six percent—of the enlisted youths are illiterate. The number of youths who are Youth Group members and the number of youths who have Level-3 educations are still too small. Some localities have admitted people into the Youth Group hastily, and before admitting the key enlisted youths, in order to fulfill the political goals. In many localities, in a considerable number of cases the enlisted youths have previous arrest and conviction records and some youths who do not meet health standards, have contagious diseases or mental illnesses, or have congenital defects have also been put on the draft lists. Their illnesses are not noted in their health records and are not discovered until they arrive at the units.

Because the quality of enlisted youths does not meet standards, when they arrive at the training units many negative phenomena arise in the training. Desertions are still a problem which has not been completely overcome. Furthermore, the troops' consciousness of organization and discipline has not yet undergone a solid transformation. The number of troops with consciousness of training so that they can fulfill their missions well during their period of service is still small. The number of troops with consciousness of striving to go on the take officer training so that they can serve the army for a long time is even smaller.

On the basis of the real situation and the reasons for it, we believe that in order to ensure the quality of enlisted youths there must be a comprehensive solution on the scope of

society as a whole. First of all, it is necessary to affirm clearly the position of troops in society at present. That must be manifested in the state regulations and policies regarding the army. At the same time, it is necessary to educate all strata of people so that they can clearly understand their responsibility toward the mission of defending the fatherland, specifically their responsibility to build the army. There must be created in the sentiment of the people respect for youths who have returned after fulfilling their military obligations. They must be provided jobs and youths who evade their responsibility to defend the fatherland must be criticized. There must be complete educational contents for the families, schools, and mass organizations, to enable youths to correctly understand their honor and responsibility toward joining the army to defend the fatherland. We must evoke the very fine tradition of our people during the years of resistance war against France and the United States. Then, all families were always conscious of educating and motivating their children to volunteer to take up arms, despite the sacrifice and hardships awaiting them at the front. And because of that awareness of responsibility, youths who evade their responsibility or desert cannot have a position in society.

Today, in peacetime, our entire population is concentrating all efforts on the great undertaking of building the nation, so it is difficult to have conditions for being as concerned with national defense as during the time when the entire nation was at war. But it would be a mistake to neglect the mission of defending the fatherland. First of all, we must be concerned with building the armed forces, among which the army is the hard-core force. With the viewpoint of people's war and national defense by all the people, clearly only if all the people participate in building the army can our army truly have the nature of a people's army, arise from the people, and serve the people.

### ECONOMIC

#### Merger Sought for Thai Projects in Burma, Vietnam

91SE0112B Bangkok THE NATION in English  
15 Jan 91 p B2

[Article by Apisak Dhanasettakorn]

[Text] Thai fishing and related interests plan to merge their projects in Burma and Vietnam and create a holding company to invest in both countries, according to Somkiat Anuraj, managing director of Thai-Myanmar Fisheries Co., which currently undertakes the Burmese projects.

Shareholders agreed last week that Thai-Myanmar should also be involved in Vietnamese projects currently under negotiations. Apart from fishing concessions in Vietnamese waters, Vietnam has emphasized investments in related activities, including processing.

Both Vietnamese and Thai officials last November signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in fisheries and related areas with a combined fleet of more than 200 trawlers.

Somkiat said a working group will be appointed to study details of the merger plan which see more businessmen than fishermen as shareholders.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of this month before a Thai delegation heads for Vietnam to finalize negotiations on joint ventures in early February.

Since these joint ventures will require a large capital investment, it was agreed that more businessmen should become shareholders. Under this idea, a holding company will be set up to carry out both Burmese and Vietnamese projects.

The holding company will control subsidiaries handling projects in the two countries. The holding firm can also be upgraded to the status of a national firm that will be responsible for future fishing and related ventures outside Thailand.

As for Vietnam, Somkiat said Vietnam will be asked to improve its infrastructure before Thai investors can proceed with investment plans, such as processing, shrimp farming, ice production and cold storage plants.

Suraphol Seafood Co., Unicord Co. and Thai Union Co. have expressed interest in investing in cold storage and canning facilities in Vietnam.

In Burma, Thai-Myanmar is licensed to operate 169 trawlers in the first year contract, which expires this April.

### Investors Sought From the Philippines

91SE0112A Bangkok THE NATION in English  
15 Jan 91 p B2

[Article by Cristina Pastor]

[Text] Key officials of Vietnam's Ministry of Commerce invited Filipino businessmen to invest in the country noted for its liberal investment policies and cheap labour, but saddled with corruption and smuggling in different levels of its bureaucracy.

The officials, led by first Deputy Minister Le Van Triet, met for two days last week with top managers of Philippine corporations and multinational companies. They said foreign trade, especially with countries of Southeast Asia, has "rapidly expanded," and they would be willing to provide a "favourable" climate for joint ventures with foreigners.

"I have to admit that corruption and smuggling are serious, and this situation is unacceptable to the Vietnamese people," said Le, who is also the chief of Hanoi's campaign against corruption.

He told businessmen, "When you go to Vietnam, I prefer that we discuss between the tables and not under the table."

He told a gathering of about 200 corporate honchos the National Assembly has endorsed a resolution, recommending stiff measures to stop the practice.

"The initial result is encouraging," he said, "I have nothing to hide, there is no secret."

Le said his government's priority is to develop the economy based on three principles in Vietnam's "renovation policies." First is the promotion of agriculture, instead of industrial development, to provide for the subsistence of farmers comprising 80 per cent of the population. Second is the shift from a centrally-planned to market economy. Third is the opening of the economy to foreign investors through the passage in 1987 of the Laws on Foreign Investment.

For two years since 1987, he reported that 193 investment projects had been granted licences, their total capital estimated at \$1.3 billion.

Inflation, he added, has fallen from 14.28 to 2.8 per cent in 1989.

"The achievements are crucial... but it takes time to overcome such problems as budget deficits, foreign debts and weak infrastructure. We have to continue to perfect the mechanism of economic management, that is to simplify administrative procedures, cut short red tape," he said.

Deputy Director General Nguyen Van Thu of the Import-Export department said socialist countries no longer dominate trade with Hanoi.

"In 1989 things changed in opposite directions. It is expected that this trend is still going on," he said while naming Vietnam's traditional markets in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, France, South Korea, Australia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Thailand.

He said about 400 trading firms are registered, many of them as state-run companies or cooperatives.

Private entrepreneurs, he pointed out, may engage in the same kind of business "If they think it is profitable," or hire the services of existing trading companies.

Director General Do Huang Phu of the Investment Department said many foreigners would rather go into joint venture contracts because they still "do not fully understand" the working of the Vietnamese market.

### Income Tax Law

912E0099A Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese  
21 Aug 90 p 2

[Text of the Income Tax Law passed by the National Assembly on 30 June 1990]



[Text] Based on Article 100 of the constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Article 34 of the National Assembly and Council of State Organization Law, on 8 August 1990, Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong signed the order to publicly disclose the Income Tax Law that was passed by the National Assembly of the SRV on 30 June 1990. The following is the complete text of this law:

In order to contribute to stimulating production, mobilizing a portion of the incomes of the commercial installations for the state budget, ensuring fair and rational contributions among the economic elements, and coordinating the interests of the state, collectives and laborers, based on articles 80 and 83 of the constitution of the SRV, this law stipulates income taxes.

## SECTION I

### General Stipulations

Article 1: Organizations and individuals subordinate to economic elements that make a profit from production, construction, transport, commercial, food and beverage, service, and other commercial activities in Vietnam (hereafter called business installations) must pay income taxes in accord with the stipulations of this law.

Article 2: The following business activities are exempt from having to pay taxes in accord with the stipulations of this law:

1. Business activities that must pay income taxes in accord with the stipulations of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam.
2. Agricultural production activities that pay agricultural taxes.

Article 3: Business installations are responsible for reporting and paying their taxes in full in accord with the stipulations of the Income Tax Law.

Article 4: Actions aimed at avoiding or delaying the payment of taxes and other actions in violation of this law are strictly prohibited.

Article 5: State and social organizations, units of the armed forces, and citizens are responsible for helping the tax agencies and tax cadres in carrying out their tasks.

## SECTION II

### Basis for Calculating Taxes and Income Tax Tables

Article 6: The basis for calculating taxes is the yearly taxable income (without distinguishing between primary and secondary activities or regular and irregular activities) and the tax rate.

Article 7: Taxable income is gross profit minus the legal and rational business expenses of the business installation that are related to the taxable income in the period plus other income items.

Article 8: Gross profit for calculating taxable income is all income from selling goods, doing work on contract, and performing services. This is used as the basis for computing business income taxes and special sales taxes.

Other income includes bank interest, income from joint business activities, income from leasing assets, profits from the sale or transfer of assets, and other financial profits.

Article 9: Legal and rational expenses deducted for purposes of computing taxable income are stipulated based on the following principles:

1. With respect to fixed assets used in business operations, depreciation and business expenses must be deducted. The depreciation percentage for the fixed assets must correctly reflect the real degree of depreciation of the fixed assets in normal production conditions, and this must be applied uniformly in accord with the measures stipulated by the state.

2. Expenses for raw materials, materials, fuel, and energy actually used in commercial production that are related to the taxable income produced must be calculated based on a rational degree of use and the actual out-of-storehouse price of the production installations.

3. Salaries, wages, and other wage-type items that must be paid must be based on the nature of the occupation. The salaries and wages in the product units must be determined based on social labor productivity, the economic results, and a rational correlation between the sectors in the economic elements.

As for private business households, the wages and salaries paid to household heads as stipulated in Paragraph 3 of this article are not a deductible expense for purposes of calculating taxable income.

4. Other allowable expenses:

- a. Management expenses

- b. Expenses incurred in purchasing or leasing technical materials, inventions, technical permits, and technical services.

- c. Expenses directly related to the distribution of products or supply of services.

- d. Contributions to social insurance and installation asset insurance funds.

- e. Other legal and rational expenses.

5. Paid taxes and fees that are related to the the business activities, except income taxes.

6. Commercial production expenses do not include penalties and expenses that are not in accord with the measures stipulated by the state.

The Council of Ministers will stipulate in greater detail the legal and rational commercial production expenses



that may be deducted to calculate taxable income based on the principles stipulated in this article.

Article 10: Business organizations and individuals, except for small business households and temporary business households, must pay income taxes according to a set tax rate based on their yearly taxable income as follows:

1. The electrical energy, mining, metallurgy, machine, basic chemicals, fertilizer, insecticide, building materials, timber felling and processing, marine products processing, building, and transportation sectors: 30 percent.

2. Light industries, food industries, and other production sectors: 40 percent.

3. The commercial, food and drink, and service sectors: 50 percent.

As for private business households, if their monthly profit is more than 6 million dong, besides paying an income tax based on the set tax rate, they must also pay a supplementary income tax stipulated by the Council of State.

Article 11: 1. Small business households must pay an income tax that is based on contract tax rates and that is calculated on business receipts as follows:

a. Production, building, and transportation sectors: 1 percent.

b. Commercial, food and drink, and service sectors: 2 percent.

2. Small business households are households with average monthly taxable receipts as follows:

a. Production and commercial sectors: up to 3 million dong.

b. Food and beverage sector: up to 1.1 million dong.

c. Contract production, transportation, building, and service sectors: up to 750,000 dong.

3. Temporary business installations must pay an income tax based on a contract rate of business income: 3 percent.

Article 12: When necessary, the Council of State can revise or adjust a number of the income tax rates stipulated in articles 10 and 11 of this law. This must be reported to the National Assembly for approval as soon as possible.

### SECTION III

#### Reporting, Paying, and Collecting Income Taxes

Article 13: Business organizations and individuals are responsible for:

1. Maintaining a set of business records and keep documents and invoices according to the stipulations of the state for each type of target.

2. Adequately reporting their business income, expenses, and business profit in accord with the measures stipulated by the Ministry of Finance.

3. Providing documents, accounting records, and invoices when requested by tax agencies.

4. Paying their taxes in full and on time.

Article 14: Large and medium-sized business organizations and individuals are to pay their income taxes on a monthly basis and settle their accounts at the end of the year. They are required to do the following:

1. During the first 10 days of the following month, they must declare their income tax for the previous month as required by the tax agency and pay the tax as ordered by the tax agency by the 20th of the following month at the latest. If they did not make a profit or had a loss, they must still submit a declaration.

2. At the end of the year, or when businesses join together, split apart, or cease operations, the losses and profits must be calculated and the taxes must be reported within 45 days of the end of the year or from when the business was closed as required by the tax agency.

3. The taxes must be paid within 15 days after receiving a tax statement from the tax agency.

Article 15: Small business households are to calculate their income tax according to a contract system based on income as fixed by the tax agency every 3 or 6 months. The income tax is to be paid in full every month along with the business tax based on the stipulations of the tax agency.

Article 16: Temporary business installations must pay the income tax at the same time as they pay the business tax prior to moving their place of business.

Article 17: Business organizations must report and pay their taxes in the locality where their main office is located. Individuals must pay income taxes in the locality where they are registered to do business.

Article 18: Income taxes must be paid based on the collection statement issued by the tax agency.

Taxpayers are responsible for paying their taxes and fines, if any, in accord with the stipulations to the state treasury.

If the taxes and fines, if any, shown on the tax statement have not been paid by the time stipulated, the tax agency is responsible for implementing collection and prosecution measures as stipulated in Article 27 of this law.

Article 19: Tax agencies have the following tasks and powers:

1. To guide, help, and supervise the business installations in implementing the measures on keeping accounting records, documents, and invoices and carrying out the procedures for reporting and paying income taxes.
2. To inspect business activities in order to calculate income taxes.
3. When necessary, to require organizations and individuals to provide documents related to calculating and paying income taxes.
4. To calculate taxes, prepare tax records, examine tax records, and notify people of the amount of income tax that must be paid to the state treasury. When collecting taxes, the tax collection agencies must issue tax payment receipts printed by the Ministry of Finance.
5. To prepare records and mete out administrative punishments based on their powers or to propose that a criminal investigation be conducted if the Income Tax Law has been violated.

6. To investigate and resolve complaints and denouncements having to do with income taxes.

Article 20: Tax agencies have the authority to determine taxable income in cases in which the business installations:

1. Fail to submit an income statement or fail to submit the statement on time.
2. Fail to explain or verify the points related to the reported income in accord with requests by the tax agency.
3. Fail to implement the measures concerning keeping accounting records, documents, and invoices.
4. Refuse to show their records, documents, or invoices when requested to do so by the tax agency.

Based on the results of the investigation, the tax agency can determine the taxable income.

In cases in which the business installation does not agree with the taxable income so determined, they have the right to submit a complaint to the next higher tax agency. While waiting for a decision, the business installations must pay the income tax based on the taxable income determined.

#### SECTION IV

##### Reducing and Waiving Income Taxes

Article 21: Organizations and individuals in mountainous areas who produce products to support the needs of the locality may have their income tax reduced by 50 percent. Income taxes will be waived on transportation activities using rudimentary means in mountainous areas. Business organizations and individuals who relocate from the plains to a mountainous area may have

their income tax waived for 1 to 3 years starting from when they begin operations in the mountainous area.

Organizations and individuals who suffer losses stemming from natural disasters, enemy attacks, or other unexpected disasters may have their taxes reduced or waived.

Article 22: Business organizations and individuals in the mountains or in a number of sectors requiring investment promotion that reinvest their profits may have their income tax reduced. The percentage by which their taxes are reduced depends on the amount of money reinvested as compared with taxable income. But the maximum reduction may not exceed 50 percent of the income tax due for the year.

Article 23: As for business organizations recently established in the mountains or in a number of sectors requiring investment promotion, if they suffer a loss their first year, they may carry that business loss forward to the next year and deduct it from their taxable income in that year when calculating their income tax.

Article 24: Production activities and production service activities in the family economy stipulated by the Council of Ministers are exempt from having to pay income taxes.

Article 25: As for state economic units, after calculating their income tax in accord with the stipulations of this law, if the remaining profit is not adequate to make minimum payments to the bonus and welfare funds in accord with the stipulations of the Council of Ministers, their income tax may be reduced. The matter of reducing taxes must be examined carefully. This must be done only for a number of installations in a number of state economic sectors, with the period not to exceed 3 years.

Article 26: The Council of Ministers will stipulate principles, procedures, and powers for reducing and waiving income taxes in accord with the stipulations in articles 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 of this law.

#### SECTION V

##### Prosecuting Violators and Giving Rewards

Article 27: 1. Violations of the Income Tax Law must be handled as follows:

a. If organizations or individuals fail to carry out the stipulations on submitting reports and keeping books and records as stipulated in articles 12 and 13 of this law, depending on the seriousness of the violation, they can be given a warning or fined up to 500,000 dong.

b. As for organizations or individuals who file false statements and try to avoid paying taxes, besides having to pay taxes in accord with the stipulations of this law, they can also be fined from one to three times the amount of the tax deficiency.

First offense: 100 percent fine. Second offense: 200 percent fine. Third or subsequent offense: 300 percent fine.

In cases in which the violation is particularly serious, the fine can be 200 or 300 percent even for the first violation.

c. Organizations or individuals who are late in paying the taxes or fines stipulated in the tax statement will, in addition to having to pay the taxes or fines as stipulated in the law, have to pay a delinquency penalty of 0.5 percent of the amount paid late.

d. Organizations or individuals who fail to pay the taxes and fines will be dealt with as follows:

The bank accounts of the organizations or individuals may be levied in order to pay the taxes and fines. Banks are responsible for implementing the levy measures to pay the taxes and fines to the state budget.

Assets must be recorded based on the stipulations of the law in order to ensure that taxes and fines owed are paid.

2. Individuals who have avoided paying large amounts of taxes, who have already been subject to administrative punishment in accord with paragraphs a, b, c, and d in Paragraph 1 of this article and who again commit a violation or try to avoid paying a large amount of tax, or who have committed a serious crime can be prosecuted on criminal charges in accord with Article 169 of the Criminal Code.

Article 28: Jurisdiction for dealing with the violations mentioned in Paragraph 1 of Article 27 of this law is as follows:

1. With respect to violations mentioned in Paragraph a:

a. The head of the tax station may impose a fine of up to 50,000 dong.

b. The head of a district or equivalent echelon tax agency may impose a fine of up to 200,000 dong.

c. The head of a provincial or equivalent echelon tax agency may impose a fine of up to 500,000 dong.

2. With respect to violations mentioned in Paragraph b:

a. The head of a district or equivalent echelon tax agency may impose a fine of 100 percent of the tax due.

b. The head of a provincial or equivalent echelon tax agency may impose a fine of up to 300 percent of the tax due.

3. The head of a tax agency that directly manages a business installation may impose a delinquency penalty and apply measures as stipulated in paragraphs c and d of Article 27 of this law.

Article 29: Individuals who obstruct or incite others to obstruct the implementation of the Income Tax Law or

who obstruct the investigation and prosecution of violations of this law may, depending on the seriousness of the violation, be subject to administrative punishment or have criminal charges filed against them in accord with the law.

Article 30: Tax cadres and other individuals who make use of their positions or powers to appropriate or steal tax moneys must reimburse the state for all the tax money stolen, and, depending on the seriousness of the violation, they may be disciplined, be subject to administrative punishment, or have criminal charges filed against them in accord with the law.

Tax cadres and other individuals who make use of their positions and powers to protect people who have violated the Income Tax Law, who intentionally violate the stipulations of this law, or who lack a sense of responsibility in enforcing this law may, depending on the seriousness of the violation, be disciplined, be subject to administrative punishment, or have criminal charges filed against them in accord with the law.

Tax cadres who lack a spirit of responsibility or who intentionally commit a violation and harm taxpayers or people being prosecuted must compensate those who have been damaged.

Article 31: The Council of Ministers will stipulate bonuses for:

1. Tax agencies and tax cadres who fulfill the tasks assigned them.

2. People who discover violations of the Income Tax Law.

## SECTION VI

### Complaints and Prescriptions

Article 32: Organizations and individuals have the right to file a complaint if they think that the Income Tax Law is not being implemented correctly with respect to them.

Complaints must be sent to the tax agency that issued the collection statement or prosecution decision within 30 days after receiving the collection statement or prosecution decision.

While waiting for a decision, the person filing the complaint must pay the tax and fines on time as notified.

The agency receiving the complaint must resolve the matter within 15 days after receiving the complaint. In complex cases, the time period can be extended to up to 30 days after receiving the complaint.

Article 33: If the person who filed the complaint does not agree with the decision of the agency to which the complaint was sent or the matter has not been resolved within the time limited stated above, the person who filed the complaint has the right to file a petition with the tax agency directly superior to the agency that received the complaint.

Article 34: Tax agencies must return tax payments or fines that were collected incorrectly and pay compensation, if any, within 15 days after a decision is rendered by higher echelons.

Article 35: If it is discovered that someone made a false declaration, avoided paying taxes, or made a mistake on their taxes, the tax agency is responsible for collecting or remitting the taxes within 3 years of the date of the false declaration, tax avoidance, or mistake.

## SECTION VII

### Implementation

Article 36: The Council of Ministers will lead the implementation of income tax activities in the country.

Article 37: The minister of finance is responsible for implementing and controlling income tax activities in the country, resolving complaints, and handling proposals on tax matters within his jurisdiction.

Article 38: The chairmen of the various echelon people's committee will guide the implementation of the Income Tax Law and control the enforcement of this law in their locality.

## SECTION VIII

### Final Points

Article 39: Whenever market prices change 20 percent or more, the Council of Ministers has the authority to revise the cash norms in this law in accord with current prices.

Article 40: The Income Tax Law is effective as of 1 October 1990. [Footnote 1] [Implementing the resolution of the National Assembly, Eighth Term, 7th Session, the Council of State issued Resolution No 270BNQ/HDNN of 8 August 1990, which stipulated that the Income Tax Law would go into effect on 1 October 1990.]

Any stipulation that is contrary to this law is null and void.

This law was passed by the National Assembly of the SRV, Eighth Term, 7th Session, on 30 June 1990.

Chairman of the National Assembly

Signed:

Le Quang Dao

### Economist's Views on Economy, Petroleum Prospects

91SE0099A Bangkok THE NATION in English  
25 Dec 90 p A12

[Article by Kavi Chongkittavorn, THE NATION's Hanoi Bureau Chief]

[Text] Like the rest of the world, Vietnam's economy has been hit hard by the Gulf crisis. Its hope for a year of rapid economic growth has been dashed and 1991 promises to be another difficult year.

Vietnam's economic growth this year is estimated at 2.1 per cent, almost half of that attained in 1989, according to Le Dang Doanh, a respected Vietnamese economist. He expects Vietnam's growth rate next year will be between 2.3 and 4.6 per cent.

Vietnamese economists are generally optimistic that with proper implementation of relevant laws and regulations and elimination of bureaucratic red tape, the country can move faster in an economic recovery. Doanh said one of the most immediate tasks next year is serious enacting of new laws and regulations, especially those dealing with labour, private enterprises companies, to strengthen market mechanism to attract foreign investment and stimulate domestic economy.

Doanh, who also serves as deputy director of the Central Institute for Economic Management, is one of those on the optimistic side. In an interview with THE NATION recently, he described the Vietnamese economy as being in the "best condition" he has ever seen.

His optimism is based on the fact that Vietnam is now the world's third largest rice exporter after Thailand and the U.S., and the country is also exporting rubber and crude oil—something that it could never think of a few years earlier. He attributed the limited economic progress to Vietnam's determination to move away from the centrally-planned economy to market-oriented economy.

The agricultural sector has so far benefitted most from the current economic reform, introduced in 1986. Doanh said farmers have been encouraged to produce more by higher prices for their produce. The lack of fertilizers, however, is slowing down growth in this sector.

But Vietnam is still a long way from getting out of its present economic crisis, brought about by more than 40 years of economic mismanagement. Delegates to the recent National Assembly painted a gloomy picture for the coming year. Among the serious problems pointed out during the session are the lack of foreign currency reserves, poor banking system, and rising unemployment.

Vietnam's faltering economy has been set back even further by the sudden cutback in economic aid by the Soviet Union and former communist allies in East Europe. The Soviet Union, facing its own serious economic hardships at home, has put an end to its favourable trade treatment for Vietnam through Comecon. Starting next year, Vietnam will have to pay for all imports from the Soviet Union and other Comecon members in hard currencies.

Denied of its traditional export market following the collapse of the communist states in Eastern Europe, Vietnam has started looking for new trade partners irrespective of political and ideological stands. And Vietnam is realistic enough to look to its southeast Asian neighbours for a helping hand to put its derailed economy back on track.

The Communist Party of Vietnam recently circulated a document that it hopes will lay down the guidelines for the country's future economy. The documents is now being discussed by all parties concerned and it will be deliberated in the 7th National Party Congress, scheduled for May.

The document, officially entitled "Strategy for Social-Economic Stability and Development by 2000," envisages a doubling in 10 years of Vietnam's per capita income to US\$200-210.

The essence of the document is its emphasis on promoting market-oriented economy. While admitting that Vietnam remains as one of the world's poorest countries, the document attributes its economic failures to its pursuit of a dogmatic "socialist model of economic development," including over-emphasis on heavy industry and the absence of private businesses.

In 10 years, Vietnam hopes to increase oil production from 50,000 barrels a day to 400,000.

It also stresses the need for a credible legal guarantee of private economic activities as well as realization of an open-door economic system. The document also points out the necessity of solving the unemployment problem which now exceeds 6 per cent and reducing the population growth rate now estimated at 2.1 per cent.

The document places high hope on development of large-scale oil and natural gas fields and mineral resources. Vietnamese officials, including Doanh, said that oil explorations could be the most promising investment for their country for the coming years.

So far several Western countries, mostly from the EC, are engaged in oil and gas exploration in Vietnam. And despite the official U.S. economic embargo against Vietnam, some American companies have started oil exploration projects in the country. The U.S. now ranks 19th among 29 countries that have invested in Vietnam as of October. France tops the list with 46 projects while Japan ranks 7th with 11 projects.

A recent report by the Hawaii-based East-West Centre said Vietnam could become a high-growth economy during the first two decades of the next century if its oil and gas deposits are fully exploited. It is estimated that Vietnam could discover up to 2.5 billion barrels of oil, and that daily production could increase from the current 50,000 barrels to 400,000-600,000 barrels in 10-15 years.

With such a potential, Doanh said Vietnam has got to get its act together as soon as possible. "Now we live in a

rapidly changing world. To lose time nowadays means to lose the [foreign investment] projects," Doanh said.

"We need to accelerate our decision, making process and improve coordination among various government organizations," he added, apparently referring to frequent complaints by foreign investors of red tape.

Doanh said there is a lot Vietnam can learn from Thailand, especially in the promotion of export-oriented industries and development of modern business management. He hopes that when there is a clear framework for economic cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam, both countries may enter into a joint venture with a third country. "We can make use of Thailand's connections in the international markets while we have our own experiences in the former Eastern bloc to share," Doanh said.

## SOCIAL

### Reporters Threatened, Held in Vinh Phu

912E0076A Hanoi TIEN PHONG in Vietnamese  
13 Nov 90 p 3

[Article by Dinh Van Nam: "Forum on Reporters Held in Vinh Lac, Vinh Phu: Facts Clarified"]

[Text] Issue No. 39 of TIEN PHONG newspaper dated 25 September 1990 carried an article on the reporters held and threatened in Vinh Lac, Vinh Phu which reported developments involving two TIEN PHONG reporters Pham Nguyen Bang and Manh Viet along with driver Do Ha and a NONG DAN VIET NAM reporter Dao Hoa who were on assignment in Ban Mach Hamlet, Ly Nhan Village, Vinh Lac District, Vinh Phu Province and were held, threatened, and vilified from the afternoon of 16 August to the afternoon of 18 August 1990; the automobile carrying the reporters was seriously damaged. The article recommended that responsible agencies in Vinh Lac District and Vinh Phu Province urgently find the persons who perpetrated the holding and threatening of the reporters and the damage to the automobile so appropriate measures could be taken.

The holding of the reporters has stirred up public opinion throughout the country. Many telephone calls and many reporters have come to the editorial office and hundreds of letters from readers far and near have been sent to the editorial office inquiring about the status of the reporters and requesting that the wrongdoers be found and dealt with severely. Numerous readers far and near demand clarification and a response to public sentiment. Maintaining an attitude of calmness and not acting rashly, TIEN PHONG newspaper did not publish a follow-up article by reporters and did not publish the views of reporters and readers pending coordination with Vinh Phu Province and Vinh Lac District and the local government response.

TIEN PHONG has received responses. These are the reports from Ly Nhan Village and the Vinh Lac District

People's Committee, and the conclusions about this incident from the Vinh Lac District Party Committee. These documents reveal a fairly large disparity and gap with contradictions between the facts and the conclusion of the locality. Let us cite several disparities: resolution No. 04/KLHU, the conclusion of the Vinh Lac District Party Committee dated 20 September 1990, states that Mr. Phung Van Lac and family held the reporters and the reporters blockaded themselves (!?) And that the damaged automobile was the fault of the driver (!?) Document No. 4 concludes that the team of reporters and Manh Viet are the ones at fault based on the facts of what occurred in Ban Mach in recent days (!?)

The aforementioned conclusions are at variance with the facts and are not consistent with our country's press law. After carefully weighing the facts and taking into account the disadvantageous effect on the locality, TIEN PHONG newspaper did not publish the content of these documents. TIEN PHONG and NONG DAN VIET NAM waited for a forum involving the reporters and Vinh Lac District and Ly Nhan Village to clarify the incident.

We are very pleased that the Vinh Phu Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee along with the Vietnam Journalists Association came forward to arrange a forum on the incident in Ban Mach on 2 November 1990 in Vinh Phu. The purpose and agenda of the forum were to objectively examine whether the group of reporters was held and threatened and the automobile damaged. Bui Huu Hai, chairman of the Vinh Phu Provincial People's Committee, and Lan Anh, member of the Control Department of the Journalists Association, presided over the forum. Many central- and local-level reporters representing a number of agencies at the central level, in Vinh Phu Province, in Vinh Lac District, and in Ly Nhan Village attended the forum. A number of representatives, including the reporters who were held and Phung Van Lac as witnesses, recounted the event and what was heard and seen in Ban Mach. Representatives from TIEN PHONG newspaper, NONG DAN VIET NAM newspaper, Vinh Lac District, Vinh Phu Province, and the Ministry of Culture and Information expressed views. The forum took place with an attitude of democracy, sincerity, unity, openness, and truth with evidence produced aimed at clarifying the facts.

Finally, the conference came to the following five conclusions:

1. The team of reporters from the two newspapers had gone on assignment to Ly Nhan, a complex site which the province and district had dealt with for many years but not decisively.
2. The reporters going down to investigate pursuant to the editorial office's assignment was legal.
3. The team of reporters was held, maligned and threatened, but this was a spontaneous act on the part of a number of people.

4. The TIEN PHONG newspaper's automobile lost a battery and headlights, had two front tires punctured, etc.

5. After releasing the group of reporters, Chat, a village public security official, was stabbed.

Finally, the conference concluded that the wrongdoers who perpetrated the criminal act should continue to be cleared up and dealt with severely according to law by the locality. Through this, the conference realized that it is necessary to strengthen even more education in the law for the masses and that a number of existing problems will continue to be discussed for decisive resolution.

Unanimous with the forum's conclusion, the representatives were sorry about the incident and felt that the attitude of looking directly at the facts, obeying the press law, and sincerity had clarified the truth and satisfied the requirement of public sentiment.

## BIOGRAPHIC

### Information on Personalities

91P30068A

[Editorial Report] The following information on Vietnamese personalities has been extracted from Vietnamese language sources published in Hanoi, unless otherwise indicated. An asterisk indicates that this is the first known press reference to this individual functioning in this capacity.

#### Le Duc Anh [LEE DUWCS ANH]

Member of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Politburo; deputy secretary of the CPV Central Military Party Committee; minister of defense; on 20 Oct 90 he attended a ceremony held in Hanoi to mark the 40th anniversary of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN daily. (HANOI MOI 22 Oct 90 p 1)

#### Nguyen Van Anh [NGUYEENX VAWN ANHS]

\*Acting chairman of the People's Committee, Khanh Hoa Province; he was mentioned in an article on white sand exports from his province. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 29 Oct 90 p 3)

#### Tran Quang Sung [TRAANF QUANG SUWNGF]

Vice minister of light industry; on 5 Oct 90 he attended a conference in Hanoi on economic cooperation among enterprises in Hanoi, Hai Phong, and Ho Chi Minh City. (HANOI MOI 6 Oct 90 p 1)

#### Le Thanh Tam [LEE THANH F TAAM], \*Colonel

\*Political director of the 7th MR; recently he was interviewed by SAIGON GIAI PHONG on anti-smuggling work. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 11 Oct 90 p 2)

**Vo Tu Thanh [VOX TUWR THANH]**

\*Head of a section (vu truong) at the Department of Culture and Ideology of the CPV Central Committee; his article "Some Problems on the Work of Organization and Cadres at Present" was published in the cited source. (TAP CHI CONG SAN Jul 90 p 59)

**Duong Dinh Thao [ZUWOWNG DINHF THAOR]**

Member of the CPV Standing Committee, Ho Chi Minh City; on 15 Sep 90 he attended the closing ceremony of an exhibit on the development of Ho Chi Minh City in the last 15 years. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 16 Sep 90 p 1)

**Pham Ngac [PHAMJ NGACJ]**

\*Head of a department (vu truong), Ministry of Foreign Affairs; on 29 Oct 90 he was present at the talks between Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in Thailand. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 31 Oct 90 p 4)

**Bui Xuan Nhat [BUIF XUAAN NHAATJ]**

\*Acting head of the Department of Economic and Cultural Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; on 30 Oct 90 he signed an agreement in Hanoi to authorize the establishment of a representative office for OXFAM and MCC in Vietnam. (HANOI MOI 1 Nov 90 p 4)

**Vuong Huu Nhon [VUWOWNG HUWUX NHOWN]**

Vice chairman of the People's Committee, Ho Chi Minh City; on 30 Oct 90 he attended a ceremony marking the 15th founding anniversary of the city's co-op trade sector. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 31 Oct 90 p 1)

**Thai Ninh [THAIS NINH]**

Deputy head of the Culture and Ideology Committee of the CPV Central Committee (Ban Van Hoa Tu Tuong Trung Uong); on 12 Oct 90 he was present at a meeting held in Hanoi to honor Vietnamese female journalists. (HANOI MOI 13 Oct 90 p 1)

**Than Trung Hieu [THAAN TRUNG HIEUS]**

He was relieved of his position as vice minister of forestry on 29 Oct 90 by a decision of the Council of Ministers. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 31 Oct 90 p 1)

**Cong Nghia Hoan [COONG NGHIA HOANF]**

\*Deputy editor in chief of HANOI MOI daily; on 7 Oct 90 he gave an opening speech at a marathon organized by his newspaper to mark the 36th anniversary of Hanoi's liberation. (HANOI MOI 8 Oct 90 p 1)

**Duong Dang Khai [ZUWOWNG DAWNG KHAIR]**

\*Head of the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Science and Education; (ban Khoa Giao Thanh Uy); on 15 Sep 90 he gave awards to the city's athletes. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 16 Sep 90 p 1)

**Phan Van Khai [PHAN VAWN KHAIR]**

Member of the CPV Central Committee; chairman of the State Planning Commission; on 8 Oct 90 he attended a ceremony in Hanoi marking the 35th founding anniversary of the State Planning Commission. (HANOI MOI 9 Oct 90 p 4)

**Nguyen Truong Giang [NGUYEENX TRUWOWNGF GIANG]**

\*SRV representative at the UN Legal Committee; on 8 Nov 90 he attended a UN meeting in New York. (HANOI MOI 13 Nov 90 p 4)

**Phan Khac Hai [PHAN KHAWCS HAIR]**

\*Editor in chief of QUAN DOI NHAN DAN daily; on 20 Oct 90 he delivered a speech at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of his newspaper. (HANOI MOI 22 Oct 90 p 1)

**Pham Ba Hat [PHAMJ BAS HATJ]**

\*Deputy chief of the Public Security Service Command, Quang Binh Province; recently he signed a memorandum on border demarcation with Laos. (Vientiane PASASON 5 Oct 90 p 1)

**Pham Duy Hien [PHAMJ ZUY HIEENR], Professor**

\*Director of the Nuclear Research Institute; his article on Vietnam's nuclear sector was published in the cited source. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 10 Nov 90 p 1)

**Tran Huy Chuong [TRAANF HUY CHUWOWNG]**

\*Assistant to the minister of foreign affairs (tro ly bo truong ngoai giao); on 19 Oct 90 he was present at a meeting in Ho Chi Minh City between Council of Ministers Chairman Do Muoi and an Indonesian delegation. (HANOI MOI 22 Oct 90 p 1)

**Tran Tri Dao [TRAANF TRIS DAOS]**

Vice minister of education and training; on 31 Oct 90 he welcomed the UNICEF representative visiting Vietnam. (HANOI MOI 1 Nov 90 p 4)

**Phan Xuan Dot [PHAN XUAAN DOWTJ]**

Minister of forestry; on 27 Oct 90 he signed a document concerning the preliminary step to solve problems at his ministry. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 29 Oct 90 p 1)

**Nguyen Van Duc [NGUYEENX VAWN DUWCS]**

\*Head of the People's Organ of Control, Ho Chi Minh City;  
\*deputy head of the Supreme People's Organ of Control;  
recently he was appointed to the latter position by a decision  
of the State Council. (HANOI MOI 1 Nov 90 p 1)

**Doan Ngoc Bong [DOANF NGOCJ BOONGF]**

\*General secretary of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industries (phong thuong mai va cong nghiep);  
on 31 Oct 90 he attended a ceremony in Tokyo marking the  
35th founding anniversary of the Japan-Vietnam Trade  
Association. (HANOI MOI 5 Nov 90 p 4)

**Nguyen Canh [NGUYEENX CANH]**

\*Ambassador; deputy chief of the SRV permanent mission to the United Nations; on 2 Nov 90 he attended a reception in New York to welcome a delegation to the Vietnamese Veterans Association visiting the U.S. (HANOI MOI 6 Nov 90 p 4)

**Nguyen Chinh [NGUYEENX CHINHS]**

\*Acting head of the Council of Ministers' Religious Committee; on 12 Oct 90 he attended the closing ceremony of the National Congress of Vietnamese Catholics for the Construction and Protection of the Fatherland. (HANOI MOI 13 Oct 90 p 4)

**Nguyen Tan Trinh [NGUYEENX TAANS TRINHJ]**

Minister of marine products; on 10 Oct 90 he attended an awards ceremony in Hanoi. (HANOI MOI 9 Oct 90 p 1)

**Bui Tin [BUIF TINS], Colonel**

Deputy editor in chief of NHAN DAN daily; former war correspondent of the military newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN; recently he spoke to Paris weekly magazine LE POINT on the general situation in Vietnam. (Paris LE POINT in French 17-23 December 1990 pp 16, 17)

**Phan Van Tiem [PHAN VAWN TIEEMJ]**

Head of the State Prices Commission (Chu Nhiem Uy Ban Vat Gia Nha Nuoc); on 29-30 Oct he read report on the work of his organization at a conference held in Hanoi. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 1 Nov 90 p 1)

**Lam Van The [LAAM VAWN THEE], aka Ba Huong, Senior Lieutenant General, deceased**

Member of the CPV Central Committee; vice minister of interior; member of the Ministry of Interior Party Committee; member of the Standing Committee, Ho Chi Minh City; director of the Municipal Security Forces in Ho Chi Minh City; he was born on 12 Dec 1922 at An Trach Village, Gia Rai District, Minh Hai Province; he died on 9 Nov 90 at Thong Nhat Hospital. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 11 Nov 90 p 1)